

Mandela admits torture allegations

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Nelson Mandela admitted Saturday that his African National Congress (ANC) had tortured dissidents within the organisation but said those responsible had been disciplined and expelled. He spoke at an important news conference as he left for London to attend a rock concert celebrating his release from prison in February. Mandela said the ANC had established the torturers to torture allegations made by former members of the movement living in Kenya. "Unfortunately, it is true that some of these people who were complaining were in fact tortured," a grin-faced Mandela said at Johannesburg's Jan Smuts airport. "But once the ANC became aware of these mispractices, immediate steps were taken to discipline those who were guilty of torturing other people and the leaders... were immediately dismissed." Five former members of the ANC's military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), last week alleged that they had been harassed and tortured after criticising the ANC's military leadership.

هكذا وصف العمل

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية والراي

HAPPY EASTER

The Jordan Times will not be published on Monday, April 16, since its staff will be taking the Easter Sunday holiday. The next issue of the newspaper will appear on Tuesday, April 17. The Jordan Times wishes its readers and advertisers a very happy Easter.

Volume 15 Number 4367

AMMAN SUNDAY, APRIL 15, RAMADAN 20, 1410

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Gulf states discuss world changes

BAHRAIN (R) — Three Gulf Cooperation Council ministers were meeting in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Saturday to discuss coordination of information policies, the Gulf News Agency reported. The committee, set up by a summit of the GCC last December, groups Bahraini Information Minister Tareq Al Moayed, Kuwaiti Finance Minister Jassem Mohammad Al Khourafi and Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Ben Alawi Abdullah. They have held two previous meetings.

Kuwait seeks water supply from Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — A Kuwaiti delegation is in Iraq to discuss proposals for a pipeline to carry water from the Shatt Al Arab for irrigation and domestic use in Kuwait. The Iraqi News Agency said the delegation arrived in Baghdad Saturday led by Abdulh Al Munayir, under-secretary in Kuwait's Ministry of Water and Electricity.

Arab 'Greens' get recognition

CAIRO (R) — The Arab World's first Green Party has won legal status in Egypt. Cairo's higher administrative court gave the Environmental Movement the green light Saturday along with two other groups, taking to nine the total of Egypt's recognised political parties. But the Nasserites, who espouse the ideas of Egypt's late socialist leader Gamal Abdel Nasser and oppose Cairo's 1979 accord with Israel, lost their final battle for legality. Ruling on appeals from lower court verdicts a five-judge panel decided in favour of the Greens, the Democratic Unionist Party and "Mist Al Fatah" or Young Egypt, a secular, nationalist party which was one of the main forces resisting the British occupation before the 1952 revolution.

Egypt deports evangelists

CAIRO (R) — Egypt ordered immediate deportation of three West European lay evangelists Saturday, saying their Christian preaching in Cairo slums could spark religious conflict. "Our constitution ensures liberty of religion. It was their method of preaching which could have resulted in sectarian strife," a source in the state prosecution service told Reuters. Police raided the Europeans' apartment in the Cairo district of Agouza on the eve of Good Friday, arresting them and a number of Egyptians. About 100 leaflets were confiscated. The source described the evangelists as an art teacher and a car mechanic from Switzerland and a West German agricultural engineer. They came to Egypt two years ago to study Arabic. The source did not say what denomination they belonged to. Embassies of the two countries could not be reached for comment. The prosecution source said the evangelists admitted trying to convert Muslims to Christianity in poor districts of the Egyptian capital. Their preaching could have incited anti-Muslim sentiment, he said. See earlier story on page 2.

Iran papers denounce court ruling on Rushdie

NICOSIA (AP) — An Iranian daily on Saturday said a British court decision not to try Salman Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses," will block an improvement in British-Iranian relations. The Persian-language daily, "Jumhuri Islami," (Islamic Republic), said British statesmen should realise that there will be no flexibility from Iran for improvement of ties unless Britain meets "the demands of Muslims." It said that by neglecting Muslims' complaints, the British tribunal showed it is a kangaroo court with no power and acting only as the loudspeaker of British government. A British court last week declined to hear a blasphemy case brought by British Muslims against Rushdie saying his book defamed Islam.

King condemns Israeli assault on clergymen, denounces settlement

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday described Israeli police action against the Greek Orthodox patriarch and other Christian clergymen in occupied Jerusalem as a "vicious and inhuman crime" and denounced a new Jewish settlement in Arab Jerusalem. The violence against Patriarch Theodoros I and others and "the forcible entry of Israeli settlers to the Christian quarters in Arab Jerusalem... (are) a serious crime that should be condemned by all," the King said in a statement to the Associated Press. "This act took place at a time when the U.S. Senate adopted an unfair resolution on the future of Jerusalem which must have encouraged Israeli extremists and their supporters to perpetrate their crimes against Christian and Muslim shrines in the Holy City," said the statement, a copy of which was available to the Jordan Times.

"This should shed light on the false claim pertaining to the access to the holy places and the freedoms of religious practice under Israeli occupation," the King said.

King said in the statement.

The violence against Christian clergymen followed a protest by the Greek Orthodox Church against a new Jewish settlement in the Christian quarter of Jerusalem's Old City. Israeli police used force against the clergies to move in about 150 Jewish settlers to the St. John's Hospice owned by the Greek Orthodox Church.

King Hussein Saturday delegated Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid to visit the Greek Orthodox Bishop's residence in Amman and enquire about Patriarch Theodoros I. The envoy conveyed the King's wishes for the patriarch's health and safety. Patriarch Theodoros was overcome by tear-gas and collapsed when police tried to break up the demonstration by about 200 clerics protesting the settlement.

Police charged the protesters and used tear-gas and rubber bullets to break up the protest. One of the chains around the patriarch's neck holding a gold cross was broken during the melee.

The violence occurred near the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The Greek Orthodox Church has filed suit against the new

settlement, saying the four buildings it occupies are owned by the church and were illegally sold by a former tenant.

A Palestinian resistance group Friday condemned the takeover by Jews of the building complex. The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, also condemned the Israeli violence against clergymen.

"This barbaric aggression against the Christian members of our Palestinian people reaffirms to the world that Israel is a racist state that opposes other religious beliefs, be it Islam or Christianity," Hamas said in a statement carried by Reuters in Amman Saturday.

"We urge the world to understand the brutal nature of the state of our Zionist enemies and to support the Palestinian rights against this barbaric and racist attack," the statement said.

Reich assails settlement

An American Jewish leader also has condemned the settlement by Jews at the hospice. Seymour Reich, who is both international president of B'nai B'rith and chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major



American Jewish Organizations, denounced it as offensive.

Reich said in a statement late Friday that the settlers had covered a cross over the main door with a poster of the star of David, an act that he said could "be viewed as insensitive, or even a desecration."

"This was a deliberate provocation," he said. "In our opinion the people responsible for this behaved very badly."

Jerusalem's Israeli mayor Teddy Kollek, said Saturday he feared the future over the new Jewish settlement in the Christian quarter would dissuade Soviet immigrants from moving to the occupied city, an official said.

Speaking to five visiting U.S. senators, Kollek criticised the occupation of St. John's Hospice

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PLO says King, Arafat to discuss confederation basis

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat will discuss a working paper that defines future relations between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on the basis of a formula for Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, a senior PLO official said here Saturday.

"The question of confederation, which is the most acceptable and likely formula to organise relations between the two sides, will be on the agenda for the two leaders in their next meeting in Amman," PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas told reporters.

Speaking after a meeting with Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Abbas expressed satisfaction over the outcome of the discussions held at the Prime Ministry. The talks, he said, covered "future political cooperation in confronting the challenges, and a joint plan vis-a-vis the peace process in the event that a future Israeli government accepts the concept of peace in the Middle East," he said.

Badran, in a brief statement

carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said he discussed with Abbas and fellow PLO Executive Committee member Abdullah Hourani "concepts of future Jordan-PLO relations and Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine and its grave consequences on peace." The discussions also covered moves to be adopted vis-a-vis the dangers that massive Jewish immigration to Palestine poses to Jordan, the Palestinian cause and the Arab Nation, he said.

Abbas and Hourani arrived here Thursday for talks to prepare for an expected visit to Jordan next week by Arafat.

In his comments to reporters, Abbas said Saturday the PLO would pursue "efforts designed to achieve peace in the region, but the (28-month-old) intifada will continue since it is the only tool that can ensure proper response to the Palestinian people's demand for their legitimate rights."

In reply to a question about Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine, Abbas said: "The PLO will maintain its consultations with the United States, the Soviet Union and the European Community as well as the U.N. Security Council to put an end to this

immigration because it constitutes a real danger to peace in our area."

"They (the United States) say this immigration is part of the human rights of Jews, and we are not against that, but we see it as a violation of the human rights of Palestinians," Abbas said.

Abbas welcomed a statement Friday by U.S. Senate minority leader Robert Dole that he would try to reverse a recent Senate resolution recognising undivided Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. "I believe that some parties in America are backing up on their previous position after they discovered that they were not only mistaken but also that such a decision is none of their business," he said.

Abbas also urged PLO leaders to further strengthen contacts with U.S. officials.

"Our meetings with American officials are not a waste of time, but are very beneficial since these officials get to know our views instead of only listening to one side," he said.

Abbas appealed to the Palestinian people of the occupied Arab lands to stand fast in their resistance.

Assad gets Jordanian message, sends reply

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

DAMASCUS — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Saturday received a message from His Majesty King Hussein and sent a reply to the King during a meeting he held with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, which reported the exchange of messages, did not give details, but said the Syrian leader and Qasem discussed the latest developments in the region.

Apart from the message, the King had a telephone conversation with President Assad Friday night, Petra said. The two leaders discussed the most important Arab questions and the dangers and challenges posed to the Arab Nation, the news agency added.

The King and President Assad emphasised the need for mobilising pan-Arab potentials and resources to confront the common dangers, Petra said.

Qasem, who arrived here earlier Saturday, was to hold talks with his Syrian counterpart Farouq Al Sharaa. According to Petra, topics expected to be covered by the two ministers included bilateral relations, the latest developments in the region, and Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine and its impact on the Middle East peace process. "We will discuss the dangers

and threats facing the Arab Nation, including the new Jewish immigration," Qasem told reporters here ahead of talks with Sharaa.

Qasem also implied that Jordan was still trying to reconcile Syria and Iraq. "Jordan is constantly and seriously trying to achieve total Arab unity," he said in reply to a question whether the Kingdom was mediating the rift between Damascus and Baghdad.

"This is a wish which should be realised in order to face all the challenges facing the Arabs, such as the mass Jewish immigration (to Palestine)," he added.

He also said that Jordan was seeking to convene an Arab summit to discuss Jewish immigration and other issues. The schism between Syria and Iraq has been holding up such a summit.

There have been recent signs that Damascus and Baghdad might be willing to settle their decade-old differences, particularly after a war of words erupted between Iraq and Israel over nuclear and chemical weapons. Syria said it would stand by Iraq despite its differences with that country and the ruling Baath Party in Baghdad has indicated its willingness to bury the rift with its rival wing in power in Damascus by refraining from launching its usual criticism against the Syrian government in an anniversary statement.

'Israel worked towards Palestinian state in '67'

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel pursued setting up a Palestinian state in the occupied West Bank in 1967 but dropped the idea because of opposition by then-Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, a retired Israeli intelligence agent says.

Unlike its current role battling the Palestinians' drive for independence, the Shin Bet security service was the key vehicle in 1967 for Israel's plan for a Palestinian state, David Ronen, the agency's former Jerusalem and West Bank commander, wrote in his recently-published memoirs. "We could have set up a Palestinian state then," Ronen told Maariv newspaper's weekend magazine, suggesting Israel lost a promising chance for peace at a time when the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was seen as weak and the West Bank was free of Jewish settlers.

He said that shortly after the 1967 war, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol instructed the Shin Bet to probe the Palestinians' readiness for their own state that would be formed following a period of self-rule.

Talks reached the point where it was agreed that Hebron Mayor Sheikh Mohammad Ali Jaabari would be prime minister of the new state and the Palestinians were even debating whether the capital should be Hebron or Ramallah.

Jaabari was a prominent traditional leader and former Jordanian cabinet minister.

Four months after Eshkol initiated the Shin Bet operation, he cancelled it under pressure from Dayan, who insisted Israel must wait for the Arabs to initiate peace talks.

After the plan was scrapped, the Shin Bet's mission shifted to trying to wipe out the Palestinian nationalist movement.

The agency has been an important element in Israel's battle against the 28-month-old Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

France reportedly pressing Aoun to quit

BEIRUT (AP) — Rival Christian forces battled with tank cannon, mortars and machine guns in east Beirut Saturday as France was reported to be trying to convince renegade General Michel Aoun to step down.

At least seven people were wounded in a one-hour early morning battle along the edges of the hilltop residential district of Ashrafieh, a stronghold of Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces militia.

Aoun's 19,000 troops and Geagea's militia have fought each other to a standstill since Jan. 30, killing 875 people and wounding 2,376 in their quest for dominance of the 800-square-kilometre Christian enclave.

The flareup coincided with talks in Lebanon by Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi in an effort to salvage a peace pact, reached more than five months ago to end Lebanon's civil war.

The peace accord was worked out by Lebanese legislators at the Saudi resort of Taif under Arab League auspices last October.

Aoun has rejected the Taif accord along with the election of President Elias Hrawi a month later.

"The Taif accord has stumbled in the first steps, but there is a real chance to put it on the proper track once again," Brahimi told reporters after a one-hour meeting with Maronite Catholic Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir.

The prestigious newspaper Al Nahar said France, traditional patron of Lebanon's Christians, has launched an effort to convince Aoun to step down in favour of Hrawi.

The report, quoting unnamed informed sources, said French Ambassador Rene Ala held a three-hour meeting with Aoun Friday in which he relayed to him French advice.

The French effort, the paper said, was "coordinated" with Saudi Arabi, Morocco and Algeria, whose leaders brokered the Taif accord.

Brahimi told reporters the Taif accord was "a station along the way to a settlement of the Lebanese crisis, and it won't be the last station."

"The march for peace through the Taif accord will not exclude anyone, but I hope that no one would refrain from joining this march," Brahimi added.

His remark, according to independent observers, was interpreted as an indirect call to Aoun to accept the peace accord.

Geagea had recognised Hrawi and said the Taif accord was a way to peace.

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Sweeping draft law on economic crimes submitted to Cabinet

By Mamdouh Hawamdeh Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A special committee entrusted with drafting a law to deal with economic crimes has submitted the final version of the proposed legislation to the Cabinet for approval, informed sources told the Jordan Times Saturday.

The law deals with economic crimes that include bribery, embezzlement, abuse of authority, fraud, corruption, and tax evasion. It also deals (and retroactively) with capital smuggling outside the country, the sources said.

The draft law prescribes long hard-labour prison sentences and fines against those who violate it. It prescribes a minimum five-year sentence for bank employees who embezzle bank funds.

According to the draft law those accused of mismanagement of public funds are liable prosecution; negligence is punishable by at least one-year of imprisonment; inaccurate studies and figures provided for production and public projects that might harm public interest are also considered as economic crimes.

The law also prescribes a maximum of two years of imprisonment for whoever employs or promotes any person contrary to public interest or standing laws and regulations.

It also punishes any person for withholding information leading to the uncovering of economic crimes. It also punishes public employees who conceal information that includes vital statistics, studies and inventions.

It also prohibits public employees from accepting gifts for services rendered through their public office.

The draft law also prohibits commission for awarding public tenders and contracts and prescribes a minimum of one-year imprisonment and the payment of a fine equal to the commission collected.

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Palestinians urge U.S. to exert influence on Israel for dialogue

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian leaders Saturday urged the United States to exert its influence on Israel to revive stalled moves towards Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

A group of Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip met a five-man Senate delegation headed by Republican leader Robert Dole for more than two hours.

"We told them... the Americans have to play a more important role in putting the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Israeli government together to talk about the future in this country," journalist Radwan Abu Ayyash told reporters

after the meeting.

The senators did not speak to reporters but Abu Ayyash said they promised to work for progress.

Israel's coalition government fell apart last month over a U.S. proposal for unprecedented Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo. The Labour Party demanded Israel accept the talks but rightist Likud Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir refused.

Labour would allow the PLO to have tacit role in the Cairo talks.

The two parties are now vying to break a parliamentary deadlock over who should form the next government.

"The Americans failed to get an answer from the previous government, even before it fell. I hope they will be able to get a fruitful answer from the newly-formed government," Abu Ayyash said.

Also at the meeting were activist Faisal Al Hussein, philosophy professor Sari Nusseibeh and other supporters of the PLO's mainstream Fatah group, the Palestine Communist Party and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Together with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine the groups form the under-

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Lithuania defiant against Gorbachev economic threat

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Lithuania's president Saturday refused to renounce independence despite Mikhail S. Gorbachev's threat to cut off crucial supplies. Such a move would close factories in the republic, a Lithuanian economist said.

"We cannot revoke the declaration of independence," said Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis in a statement released by his government Saturday, one day after Gorbachev gave his ultimatum.

The Soviet president gave the Baltic republic until Sunday to withdraw its March 11 declaration of independence, saying the Soviets then would stop shipping items they could export to other

countries for hard currency.

Such products include oil and natural gas, for which Lithuania's 3.8 million residents rely completely on Moscow.

"We expected worse," Landsbergis said. He said he assumes that for now, the Soviet Union will not resort to other measures, apparently in reference to a violent military crackdown. He also said other republics are unlikely to comply immediately.

The Soviet news agency TASS Saturday quoted a Czechoslovak newspaper as reporting that Lithuania's prime minister, Kazimira Prunskiene, said the Baltic state had "dramatically intensified" its contacts with the West to establish broad economic rela-

tions.

"In case of an economic blockade on the part of the USSR," Lithuania has negotiating with West Germany and Switzerland to print Lithuanian money to replace Soviet rubles, she was quoted as saying.

But a Lithuanian economist and legislator said a cutoff of exportable items like oil, gas, metal, machinery, cotton and automobiles would close factories.

"Workers aren't ready to suffer in such a degree," said Kazimieras Antanavicius. Although he agreed with Landsbergis that the decision to declare independence on March 11

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Jerusalem's Latin patriarch makes Easter appeal for peace

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Jerusalem's Latin patriarch Saturday made an Easter appeal to Christians throughout the world to exert pressure for an Arab-Israeli peace settlement.

In an interview with Reuters, Archbishop Michel Sabbah — the first Arab to hold the post — said suffering had increased on both sides over the past year and would worsen further unless Jews and Arabs started to negotiate.

"There are more sufferings, there are more killings, more houses demolished, more people in prison, more hatred in hearts, more moral suffering in the consciences of the Israelis themselves," he said.

"If it lasts longer it means that we are going toward more destruction, mutual destruction of both peoples, of anybody who is here."

Israelis have killed at least 638 Arabs in a 28-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"For the Christians or any man who is living outside the Holy Land... the message of the resurrection must be an appeal, a cry even, that he has to do anything he can do for the establishment of peace and justice in this Holy Land," Sabbah said.

"On the international level... we see that nothing is moving, for this reason this is also an appeal that dialogue start in order to start the peace, once the dialogue will begin it means that peace will begin also," he added.

U.S. sponsored moves for unprecedented Israeli-Palestinian peace talks ground to a halt last month when Israel's coalition government split over the issue.

The Labour Party and the right-wing Likud are now vying to break a parliamentary deadlock over who should form the next government.

Sabbah avoided comment on violence that erupted a few yards from his office in the walled Old City Thursday when Jewish settlers moved into a building owned by the Greek Orthodox Church and leased through a Panamanian-registered proxy.

Christians and Muslims protested in the street outside until dispersed by police using clubs and teargas.

Local residents said the area was quiet over the weekend while Old City residents awaited the outcome of a court hearing scheduled for next week to decide whether the church may evict its unwanted tenants.

"We will see which way the court rules, if it goes against us there will be serious trouble here," one Arab said.

"This was the work of extremists, people who concentrate only on themselves and their own religious fervour... without thought for the negative headlines that will be written," she quoted him as saying.

At the disputed building, near the Holy Sepulchre Church in the heart of the Christian district, police with automatic rifles and teargas-launchers stood guard while at upper windows bearded Jews in traditional prayer-shawls swayed in prayer.

The slight confusion one middle-aged American tourist.

"Excuse me, is this the Jewish quarter," she asked.

Pope leads ceremony
In Rome, Pope John Paul, carrying a simple wooden cross, led a candle-lit procession through the ruins of the ancient Roman Colosseum Friday in homage to the crucifixion of Christ.

Thousands of pilgrims braved a chill night, clasp candles as they recited prayers for the world's suffering people and watched the Good Friday procession from the majestic arena where early Christians were slain for their faith.

The 63-year-old Pope, draped in vestments of red, white and gold, held the black, two-metre cross high throughout the Easter week ritual, which this year was broadcast to the Soviet Union for the first time and to 25 other countries.

Swaying and resting his forehead against the cross in meditation, he stopped 14 times along his route at the "stations of the cross," which recall the events in Christ's condemnation to death, crucifixion and burial in Jerusalem.

A commentary for the ceremony written by Jerusalem patriarch referred to "injustices inflicted by men on other men."

The Pope also presided Friday evening over a "passion of Christ" prayer service in St. Peter's Basilica in which prayers were said for the Jewish people and Christian unity.

Earlier, in a Basilica packed with Easter pilgrims and tourists, the Pontiff spent 70 minutes hearing the confessions of 13 ordinary Catholics selected at random.

Among those who spoke to the Polish Pope were a Roman garage mechanic, an Italian factory worker, a young Pole, and a nun from Zaire.

Holy week celebrations culminated on Easter Sunday when the Pontiff will celebrate mass in St. Peter's Square and deliver his twice-yearly "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world) address.

Payrouz joins Christians in prayer
In Beirut, Payrouz, the Arab

World's most famous singer, joined Lebanese Christians in observing Good Friday in Muslim west Beirut where they had taken refuge from an inter-Christian war.

Some 3,000 Christians remembered the crucifixion of Jesus Christ with more grief as their community suffered its bloodiest internal power struggle.

"I am the bereaved mother with no one to comfort me... let your son's death breathe a new life to those seeking it," prayed Payrouz at the St. Wardiyeh Church in west Beirut.

Payrouz, clad in black, knelt in front of the cross as she prayed. Many of the congregation were displaced families who have fled the battered Christian heartland.

Payrouz, a Christian Lebanese, has since the 1960s won tens of thousands of admirers across Europe and the Middle East. Her songs mainly deal with the plight of Lebanon and other scenes close to Arab hearts.

Payrouz's songs are widely admired by both Christians and Muslims as the most beautiful and intense expression of love and suffering.

The inter-Christian fighting has prevented her from going to east Beirut, where she usually prays.

At least 950 people have been killed and more than 3,000 wounded in two months of tank, artillery, and rocket battles between Christian troops of General Michel Aoun and rival militia of the Lebanese Forces (LF).

Some bereaved women wept as Payrouz sang Good Friday Byzantine carols.

"At war we have no consolation but in prayers. We are praying for the black days to end and for the good days to come," said Lina Khoury, a refugee from east Beirut.

The emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah dissolved parliament at the height of the Iraq-Iraq war, citing a foreign conspiracy to destroy his country.

Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, who is also prime minister, has pledged to restore parliament but "under rules to prevent repetition of what happened in the past."

He has carried out wide consultations with Kuwaitis that he said showed they favoured a return to parliamentary democracy but under rules different from those for the previous assembly, seen by many as divisive.

Saddam and 31 former deputies staged seven unprecedented rallies in December and January demanding a parliament but later accepted an offer to halt gatherings and have talks with the government on the future of democracy in Kuwait.

"It is a rally, they are trying to get around their promise. The government does not need such demonstrations to find out who has public backing," an Egyptian Arab affairs expert told Reuters.

At the previous rally, police used tear gas and tear gas to disperse some 6,000 people who gathered to urge the government to restore the parliament, once the liveliest in the Arab World.

Saddam defended Friday's meeting and said the crowd went to his home to congratulate him on the occasion of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Ahead of the meeting, Saddam said: "It is not like previous rallies it is a gathering to receive well-wishers. If the citizens ask us about our views on the dialogue or to explain the situation, we will tell them."

"It is important for us to get in touch with the people and we will hold such meetings whenever we find a need to communicate with citizens," Saddam added.

Activists say the crown prince, government representative in the dialogue, only heard their demands without offering any proposals.

Sheikh Saad was quoted in Kuwait's Al Aun newspaper last Tuesday as saying the dialogue could take up to two years.

The movement — backed by the country's large professional societies, student groups and trade unions — has expressed concern that the government was seeking to set up a toothless body by amending the constitution.

Kuwaitis criticise government over parliament
CAIRO (R) — Leaders of Kuwait's pro-democracy movement, in an apparent breach of an earlier pledge to halt public rallies, criticised the government at a weekend meeting attended by a few hundred citizens.

"We told the people there was no real dialogue with the government on restoring the parliament and expressed our fears that it might amend the constitution," former parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Saddoud told Reuters by telephone.

Kuwaitis gathered in Saddoud's villa and nearby streets Friday night while former deputies, using loud speakers, voiced displeasure at what they saw as government inaction to restore a parliament dissolved 3½ years ago.

"There was no police presence and everyone was allowed to enter and speak freely," one eyewitness said.

In Kuwait, a responsible source said: "We hope the aim behind what happened is not to obstruct the good process underway to solve the issue."

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Ahead of the meeting, Saddam said: "It is not like previous rallies it is a gathering to receive well-wishers. If the citizens ask us about our views on the dialogue or to explain the situation, we will tell them."

"It is important for us to get in touch with the people and we will hold such meetings whenever we find a need to communicate with citizens," Saddam added.

Activists say the crown prince, government representative in the dialogue, only heard their demands without offering any proposals.

Sheikh Saad was quoted in Kuwait's Al Aun newspaper last Tuesday as saying the dialogue could take up to two years.

The movement — backed by the country's large professional societies, student groups and trade unions — has expressed concern that the government was seeking to set up a toothless body by amending the constitution.

Kuwaitis criticise government over parliament
CAIRO (R) — Leaders of Kuwait's pro-democracy movement, in an apparent breach of an earlier pledge to halt public rallies, criticised the government at a weekend meeting attended by a few hundred citizens.

"We told the people there was no real dialogue with the government on restoring the parliament and expressed our fears that it might amend the constitution," former parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Saddoud told Reuters by telephone.

Kuwaitis gathered in Saddoud's villa and nearby streets Friday night while former deputies, using loud speakers, voiced displeasure at what they saw as government inaction to restore a parliament dissolved 3½ years ago.

"There was no police presence and everyone was allowed to enter and speak freely," one eyewitness said.

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The emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah dissolved parliament at the height of the Iraq-Iraq war, citing a foreign conspiracy to destroy his country.

Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, who is also prime minister, has pledged to restore parliament but "under rules to prevent repetition of what happened in the past."

Saddam and 31 former deputies staged seven unprecedented rallies in December and January demanding a parliament but later accepted an offer to halt gatherings and have talks with the government on the future of democracy in Kuwait.

"It is a rally, they are trying to get around their promise. The government does not need such demonstrations to find out who has public backing," an Egyptian Arab affairs expert told Reuters.

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Kaddoumi: U.S. not serious on peace

LONDON (R) — A senior PLO official in remarks published Saturday accused the United States and Israel of failing to take Middle East peace efforts seriously, and said a U.S. plan for Israeli-Palestinian talks was a bluff.

"These are all slogans raised to buy time," Fawaz Kaddoumi, foreign minister of the Palestine, told the Arabic language London-based newspaper Al Hayat.

"These plans are offered to deceive the world into believing the United States is serious about a peace process. I don't think it is serious," he said in an interview.

A U.S.-backed plan for the first direct talks between Israelis and Palestinians, to be held in Cairo, stalled when Israel's coalition government collapsed after Likud Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir failed to back the plan.

Kaddoumi said a 28-month-old Arab revolt against Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip should continue until Israel recognised an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel.

"The Israeli mentality must be changed first through the intifada (uprising)," he said. The Palestine National Council (PNC) declared an independent state in 1988.

Kaddoumi said it would make no difference whether Shamir or Labour leader Shimon Peres led the next Israeli government.

"Despite differences in details of their political programmes, they agree on (Jewish) immigration and settlement," Kaddoumi said.

"Peres is known for saying something and doing something else. He will never succeed in offering a peace initiative that would have an impact in reality."

The PLO is worried by an influx of Soviet Jews to Israel, which the Jewish state has said could total 750,000 in the next five years.

Kaddoumi said younger Israeli leaders in the future might be more flexible than Peres and Shamir.

Najibullah rejects call to step down
ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan President Najibullah said in an interview published Saturday that his ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) would not quit power unless defeated in free elections.

Islamabad's daily newspaper, the Muslim, quoted him as also saying in the interview that the morale of his forces had grown higher after crushing a coup attempt last month that was led by then Defence Minister Shahmawaz Tanai.

"We want that all the forces share state administration proportionate to the level of support they enjoy among the people," Najibullah said in the interview.

"The removal from any arrangement of the PDPA, which is a well-organised and powerful nationwide party, could only be considered if such is the verdict of a free and fair election," he said.

The Western-backed rebels want the PDPA to step down. They have rejected Najibullah's offers for peace talks and internationally supervised elections and have vowed to continue their 11-year-old guerrilla war until they set up an Islamic government of their own.

Free and fair elections will be possible when all conflicting forces sit down at a negotiating table and put an end to war and bloodshed through talks and understanding," Najibullah said.

He said the March 6 attempted coup, during which his presidential palace and other government buildings in Kabul were bombed by mujahideen pilots, had "left no negative impact on the spirit of our armed forces."

"In fact the combat morale and spirit of the armed forces have been further elevated after this incident. A good proof of this fact is the extermination of the coup plotters and the foiling of this attempt in less than 24 hours," he said.

Kabul said early this month it had arrested 623 people on charges of having roles in the coup attempt.

3 Europeans accused of inciting religious strife detained in Egypt
CAIRO (AP) — Police arrested three Europeans on suspicion of fomenting trouble between Muslims and Christians in Cairo. But an official said there was no immediate evidence they were doing more than trying to spread Christianity.

The men, two Swiss and a West German, still were being questioned Saturday, three days after their arrest.

Ali Yassin, top prosecutor for Cairo's Al Agouza district where they lived, said police reports showed the three were "engaged in proselytising. But we have no evidence yet that they were trying to create religious strife."

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Thatcher seeks more facts about steel castings destined for Iraq

LONDON (Agencies) — Fresh doubts emerged Saturday over allegations that eight steel castings intercepted on route to Iraq were parts for a giant gun which would enable Baghdad to fire nuclear or chemical warheads into Israel or Iran.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, in Bermuda talks with U.S. President George Bush, acknowledged that there was a dispute but said that if the parts could be used to make a gun they should be kept from Iraq.

"It is a pretty good rule first to find the facts before you make any further comment," she said.

British customs seized the sections after a Defence Ministry expert said they could be used to make a gun barrel and broke arms export rules.

The decision was hotly contested by the manufacturers who said the order was approved by the government and was part of a larger consignment of precision cylinders for Iraq's petroleum industry.

Independent Television News, without attribution, quoted senior government sources as saying the shipment was "probably only a pipeline."

"The government's view is that the Iraqis and the companies involved may have been falsely accused," it added.

Customs confiscated the finely-machined sections two weeks after seizing U.S. electrical components bound for Baghdad which could be used to make nuclear triggers.

Iraq has accused Britain of conducting a smear campaign against it since the execution of British-based journalist Farzad Bazoft in Baghdad last month on spying charges.

Sheffield Forgemasters, who made the castings, said 44 similar pipes had already been delivered to Iraq with the approval of the Department of Trade and Industry.

A company statement Friday said the gun theory was far-fetched and the firm released a glossy 15-minute promotional video to the media showing how the tubes were made.

Forgemasters chief executive Philip Wright said that, if the tubing had been intended for military use, then Forgemasters and the Department of Trade and Industry were victims of "the biggest con in the history of arms manufacture."

Military experts linked the seizure to Canadian scientist Gerald Bull, a gunner specialist who was shot dead outside his Brussels apartment last month.

Terry Grandier of Jane's Armour and Artillery said the sections seized by customs exactly matched specifications for a massive gun described in a book co-authored by Bull.

Bull worked with the United States and Canada in the 1960s to develop a gun powerful enough to blast satellites into space and helped to produce guns in service in Iran, Iraq and South Africa.

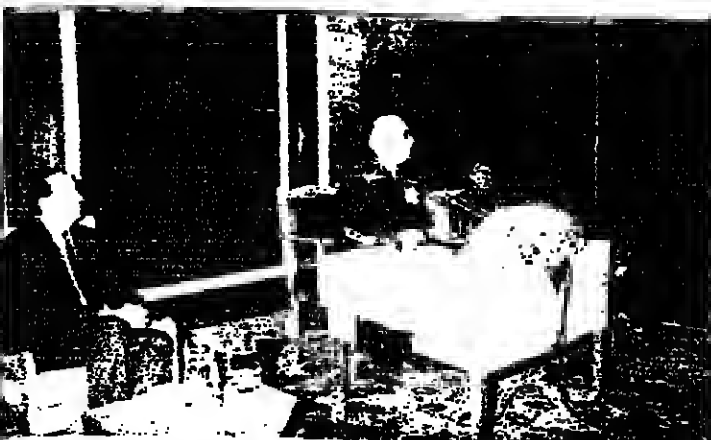
Harry Dods of Jane's Defence Weekly said it was possible that customs officials had got it wrong. "We may find in a few days' time it is just a pipeline and

then there's a lot of egg on a lot of faces," he said.

Bush pledged Friday to cooperate in tightening export laws if British investigations determine that the Iraq-bound shipment of tubing was really the makings of a huge gun.

Bush commended British intelligence and law enforcement agencies for seizing the tubing shortly before it was to be shipped to Iraq.

"Anything we can do to keep guns or chemicals out of the



IFTAR — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday attended an Iftar banquet hosted by Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb at the Officers Club in Zarqa. Attending the banquet also were His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah and Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. The banquet was also attended by senior army, general intelligence, Public Security and Civil Defence officers (Petra)

UNICEF steps in to treat uprising victims

AMMAN (Petra) — The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has stepped in to provide physiotherapy services to 3,500 Arab children, thus preventing their suffering from permanent disability, Reid said in an interview on Jordan Television Saturday.

In reviewing the situation in the occupied Arab territories, where the inhabitants — many of them children, are exposed to continued inhuman practices, Reid said that the negative effects on children are numerous, but the bodily harm is manifest in the broken bones of arms and legs of children who are at the forefront lines in confrontation with the Israeli troops.

"In addition, the children are exposed to malnutrition due to their families' low income," Reid said.

"Apart from the centre for the rehabilitation of Palestinian children, which has been set up in cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), UNICEF has carried out projects for maintaining water supplies in a bid to protect public health safety," Reid pointed out.

Reid commended Jordan's efforts in the 1980s in the field of primary health care, especially care given to children, and its success in reducing the infant mortality rate.

"Jordan was among the first countries in the whole Near East region to make real achievements in this regard," Reid said.

He said that countries in the Near East and North Africa region, especially Jordan, Syria, Oman and South Yemen, have succeeded in reducing the overall mortality rate among children to 2,000 daily at the end of the past decade, down from 4,000 daily at the start of the 1980s.

In contrast, countries in North America and Europe needed 70 years to achieve that goal," he said.

Reid attributed the success to the wide-scale immunisation campaign in which UNICEF had participated and which resulted in raising the coverage to 80 per cent in 1985, up from five per cent in 1979.

Referring to the causes behind child mortality, Reid said that lack of proper immunisation of children, especially those under one year of age can increase by 20 per cent the rate of mortality rates. But, he said, dehydration claims a higher toll, accounting for almost 40 per cent of the total number of deaths.

Reid also noted that the number of births in the Near East and North Africa region doubles every 17 years, compared to every 22 years in other countries of the world.

Masri condemns Israeli attack on Christian clergy

AMMAN (Petra) — An assault against Christian clergymen in Arab Jerusalem last Thursday and the continued Israeli attempts to occupy Arab homes and religious places in the Holy City can be interpreted as the starting point for Israeli expansionism prompted by massive Soviet Jewish immigration, Taber Al Masri, member of the Lower House of Parliament, said Saturday.

Masri, who is also chairman of the Lower House's Foreign Affairs Committee, described the assault as a violation of all religious values and morals. He was referring to an attack by Israeli troops and settlers on Greek Orthodox Patriarch Theodoros I and other clergy while they were protesting the expropriation of a building in Arab Jerusalem's Christian quarter owned by the Orthodox church.

The Israelis used tear-gas to disperse the clergy and the Arab citizens who marched to the building in protest against its occupation by Israeli settlers.

"Had that assault occurred in a Western country and had it been carried out by Arabs or Muslims there would have been a worldwide outcry against the Arabs and Muslims, but having occurred in areas under Israeli control and occupation and by Israeli soldiers, the assault went without notice in the West," said Masri.

"This is not only a mere condemnation of Israel's actions against the Arab population, but also an embodiment of injustice, and can be interpreted as part of the ongoing conspiracy being hatched against Jerusalem and the clergy," Masri said.

Masri, in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said he expected repudiations of the Israeli assault and said that heads of Christian as well as Muslim faiths are liable to face further assaults in different parts of the occupied Arab territories.

"The assault reflects Israel's

desire to expand and eliminate any opposition to occupation and, most importantly, a desire to obliterate the Arab and Muslim characters of the Arab territories," Masri said.

"This strategy could be part of Israel's aggressive moves in the future because the occupation authorities are now intent on forcing the Arab population to abandon their homeland," Masri added.

Masri called on Muslims and Christians in general and the Palestinians in particular to be fully aware of the Israeli conspiracies boded wished that the U.S. Congress team, which was on a visit to Jerusalem during the assault, would realise the extent of Israel's arrogance and aggressive nature.

Popular protest

About 500 people protested outside the United States embassy in Amman Friday against the Israeli violence against Christian clergymen in Jerusalem.

The crowd of women, men and children was led by Palestine Liberation Organisation Executive Committee member Elia Khoury, who is also Anglican Bishop of Jordan, and Sheikh Rajab Al Tamimi, a Palestinian deportee and former chief justice of the city of Hebron in the West Bank.

A dozen riot police with shields, helmets and batons stood outside the embassy building but did not interfere and the crowd dispersed peacefully after the hour-long protest.

The Amman branch of the Washington-based American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), which organised the march gave a senior embassy official a letter addressed to U.S. President George Bush.

The assault on the Greek Orthodox patriarch of Jerusalem, and his followers and the forced

occupation of a Christian hostel adjacent to the Church of the Sepulchre are further proof of Israel's intransigence and violation of human and moral rights of people of peace," the letter said. "It also further evidences Israel's intention and determination to Judaize Jerusalem, a city which is holy not only to Jews but also to Christians and Muslims."

"The recent resolution adopted by the U.S. Senate recognising 'unified' Jerusalem as the capital of Israel is an appeasement of the Israeli lobby in Washington and encourages further instability and disorder in the Holy Land. It is a serious departure from long-standing official American policy and contradicts the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1948 and the Hague Regulations of 1907. Needless to say, the Senate resolution also contravenes all United Nations resolutions pertinent to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the status of Jerusalem," the letter said.

"Regardless of Israeli assertions and contentions, the international community has never accepted Israel's annexation of Arab Jerusalem. In whatever settlement emerges from the ongoing efforts for a negotiated peace in the Middle East, Israel can count on no support for its claim to sovereignty over Arab Jerusalem," it added.

"Such arrogance and open defiance of international legitimacy will lead to further anarchy and chaos. Void of any historic justification, Israel's persistent disregard for the feelings and sentiments of world Christians and Muslims and its attempts to raise questions over Christian and Muslim rights after 13 centuries of continuity are totally unacceptable. If ancient prophecies are to be evoked to justify military conquests and occupation, then the world will find itself in a quagmire of disorder, danger and chaos," the letter warned.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday visits a home in a southern village (Petra photo)

Queen tours poor south villages

MAAN (Petra) — Two of the poorest villages in Jordan located within the Maan governorate were visited Saturday by Her Majesty Queen Noor. The Queen donated JD 2,000 to finance essential services and distributed books, toys and sports equipment to the poor children.

During her tour of Al Hashemieh, 40 kilometres north of Maan, and Wahideh, 20 kilometres west of Maan, the Queen was told the local population lives in poverty due to unemployment and suffers from scarce water resources, in sufficient classrooms at the local school and absence of social and development services.

Accompanied by Minister of Social Development Abdul Majid

Shreideh, Minister of Health Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben and other officials, the Queen inspected homes in the two villages and received requests from the notables who appealed to the Queen for mother and child care services, increasing the number of local people benefiting from assistance supplied by the National Aid Fund and calling for employment of youth in the nearby Shideh phosphate mine.

The requests also called for opening post offices in the two villages and agricultural services.

Immediate decisions resulting from the Queen's tour were taken for improving the general situation and, according to a statement, the Ministry of Education will immediately build additional

classrooms and homes for female teachers and the Ministry of Social Development will set up community centres in both villages.

Furthermore, the National Aid Fund will increase allocations for the poor families and the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) will carry out a carpet-weaving project to employ local women, will set up bee-breeding schemes and improve health services.

According to Ministry of Telecommunications officials, a post office will be opened at Wahideh.

NHF Director-General Inaam Al Mufli, and chairman of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Abdullah Al Khatib were among senior officials accompanying the Queen on the tour.

Education attaches recalled

AMMAN (J.T.) — The withdrawal of education officials attached to Jordanian embassies abroad is expected to save JD 717,000 annually in salaries, air tickets, health insurance abroad and transportation of luggage, according to Ministry of Education's Secretary-General Munther Al Masri.

Masri said that the total number of Jordanian cultural attaches abroad is 22, of whom 16 had been sent by the Ministry of Higher Education.

According to a government order, all 48 non-diplomatic officials attached to Jordan's embassies abroad will have returned here by June 1990 in a bid to cut

down on public spending. Ministries of labour, education, higher education, information, health and industry and trade have officials attached to embassies abroad and each one was reported earning JD 1,000 a month in salary.

The government said it was taking this step in order to honour its pledge to parliament to cut on expenses in whatever possible areas. Only those attached to embassies in Arab countries will not be affected, according to the government order.

Meanwhile, another Ministry of Education official Saturday announced that Jordan will take

part in an international meeting in the Philippines on the teaching of science and technology.

Hassan Usia, director of academic education at the Ministry of Education said the meeting, between April 8 and 20, will review working papers dealing with modern trends in teaching children science and linking technology with the needs of local societies in the participating countries.

The Ministry of Education, he said, will submit a working paper to the meeting dealing with the national plans for teaching science in the light of the newly-set curricula and the new educational system in the Kingdom.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Chambers of commerce hold meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — The Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce executive council held a meeting Saturday under the chairmanship of the federation's president, Mohammad Asfour. The meeting discussed the federation's bureau report, the supply situation in the Kingdom and the Jordanian chambers of trade and commerce law. The council also discussed the possibility of participating in the 72nd session of the Arab Chambers of Commerce Council to be convened in Damascus May 10, and the International Labour Organisation conference to be held in Geneva, and issues related to visits by Jordanian economic delegations to Algeria, Tunisia and Libya for talks with public sector representatives in these countries to increase the volume of trade and acquaint them with aspects of investment in Jordan.

CAEU meets to discuss trade

AMMAN (Petra) — A committee on customs and trade affairs set by the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) will meet Sunday in Amman to discuss promoting trade exchange between CAEU member states. Taking part in the meetings are delegations representing Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Syria, Sudan, Iraq, Palestine, Libya, Egypt, Mauritania, North Yemen and South Yemen.

CBJ issues memorandum

AMMAN (Petra) — To encourage local industries and to lower industrial costs in general, the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Saturday issued a memorandum to commercial banks and financial institutions requesting them to reduce to 20 per cent the cash margin on imports of raw materials.

Health department officials tour Madaba

MADABA (Petra) — Health Department inspectors in Madaba district Saturday toured several factories and stores to check their hygienic conditions. Food supplies found unfit for human consumption were destroyed and some stores were closed for not being hygienic. The inspectors are currently stepping up campaigns to examine dairy products in the market, especially those sold by street vendors.

Yarmouk University holds lecture on drugs

IRBID (Petra) — Director of the Public Security Department (PSD) anti-narcotics bureau Brigadier Ghaleb Al Zu'bi Saturday delivered a lecture on drugs at Yarmouk University. Zu'bi gave a brief account on the spread of drugs in the world and explained the danger inherent in drug addiction. He also reviewed the history of the anti-narcotics bureau since its establishment in the 70s. The lecture came within the framework of a seminar entitled "Education as Protection from Drugs," organised by the university in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Exhibition opens in Irbid

IRBID (Petra) — Within the framework of the Jerusalem International Day activities which are organised by the Islamic movement in Irbid an exhibition of books and photographs on the intifada was opened Saturday at Irbid municipality hall. The five-day exhibition was opened by Irbid Mayor Abdul Razzaq Tobeishat. It displays photos demonstrating the Palestinian people's resistance to the occupation forces.



Jordan's participation in the Berlin 'green week' produce fair last February has boosted Jordanian exports to European markets (Photo: INP/Leib)

Organisation says exports to Europe will increase

AMO explains produce shortages in March

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) announced Saturday that the amount of vegetables and fruit sold on Jordanian markets during the past month was far below that of March 1989 and the prices were higher.

In March 1990, the main consuming centres: Amman, Irbid and Zarqa received 52,000 tonnes of produce from local sources, the West Bank and foreign countries, less by 1,875 tonnes of March 1989, according to an AMO statement.

It said that the rise in produce prices in March was due to the transitional agricultural period when production was at its lowest; hence less quantities reaching the markets.

Saturday's statement made no mention of Jordan's exports of agricultural products. But earlier, an AMO statement announced that work was under way for the establishment of a federation of Jordanian agricultural exporters to European markets.

The statement, made by AMO Deputy-Director Ibrahim Oreikat said the projected federation was expected to unify efforts and offer protection to Jordan's exports of fruits and vegetables to European markets in view of the difficulties normally encountered in the process of shipping the products and because of the big number of exporters competing for European markets," Oreikat said at a press

conference.

In reviewing the present export situation, Oreikat said the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar and AMO's efforts to control quality of exported crops helped boost Jordan's exports to Europe.

"European markets import one per cent of Jordan's total exports of fruits and vegetables, but this margin could increase once the Kingdom overcame the problem of air-freight which is becoming more costly everyday," Oreikat added.

He said that AMO had opted for other means of transport to ship crops to Europe, and an initial experiment proved to be immensely successful.

Oreikat said that refrigerated trucks had been used in two successive shipments which arrived in West Germany and Belgium safely and in very good condition, despite weather conditions, and this had encouraged AMO to go ahead with plans to increase land-transported crops to European markets.

"Local exporters, including the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO) have been cooperating with AMO to make the experiment a success," Oreikat said.

"As a result of the new measures and the devaluation of the dinar, Jordan's total exports last year amounted to 550,000 tonnes, Oreikat added.

Minister of Agriculture, Suleiman Arabiyat, last month said that Jordan last year exported crops worth JD 100 million to Arab and foreign countries, but he said that the devalued dinar had made it difficult to acquire modern equipment, this year sold at higher price than last year.

According to AMO officials, more than 80 per cent of Jordan's exports went to the Gulf states, mainly to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and exports exceeded by nearly 30 per cent the total amount of crops exported in the previous year.

"AMO, earlier this year, took part in the green-week exhibition held in Berlin in a bid to promote the sale of Jordanian crops in Europe and the results of these activities will be provided to the Jordanian exporters," Oreikat added.

"AMO has worked out an integrated plan to develop vegetable and fruit exports to Europe and the Arab countries alike, taking into consideration all obstacles that could impede the marketing processes," Oreikat said at the press conference.

He said that special committees, involving the public and private sectors, have been set up to work on the plan.

Jordan's participation in the Berlin green-week, in January, was financed through a grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Fresh meat to be imported soon

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Supply has decided to import fresh meat for which a local importer will have to pay because of his failure to honour a commitment made in an earlier agreement with the ministry to provide live sheep to be slaughtered in the Kingdom.

The announcement was made by the Ministry's Secretary-General Radi Ibrahim who said that the importer had placed JD 2 million at the disposal of the government, should be fail to provide the meat in accordance with specifications set in the agreement, and the ministry now plans to import the meat for the local markets.

Ibrahim said that the ministry Saturday announced it would accept bids by local merchants to supply fresh meat which is in poor supply in Jordanian markets.

The Ministry of Supply earlier announced its rejection of 30,000 heads of Australian sheep because they did not meet with the required specifications in terms of health condition and weight.

"In the face of the pressing demand for meat the ministry also bought and slaughtered 3,300 heads of sheep raised in Jordan at a cost of JD 120,000 over the past three days and put them on the market Saturday," Ibrahim said.

Minister of Supply Nabil Hnda accompanied by Ibrahim and other ministry officials made a tour of meat centres in the capital Saturday and discussed problems with several merchants who expressed readiness to provide the required quantities of meat at reasonable prices and according to specifications set by the ministry.

Relief society plans to help needy Jordanians

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Mecca-based Islamic Relief Society plans to carry out several projects in Jordan for the benefit of needy families especially those living in rural areas, according to a spokesman of the society team now on a visit to the Kingdom.

The team met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Thursday and toured a number of rural regions within the Tafleeh governorate in Southern Jordan to study areas where such projects can be carried out.

Prince Hassan discussed with the society members the nature of the schemes in mind and the technical and in-kind assistance to be provided.

The team also met with Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Al Faqir and the Orphans' Fund Chairman Abdul Salam Al Abbadi for similar discussions.

The team, led by Dr. Abdullah Jumaa toured refugee camps and poor villages over the past two days and reviewed plans benefiting orphans and needy groups, according to an official statement.

Jumaa said in a statement that the visit was designed to pave the ground for further charitable projects in the Kingdom and the establishment of an Islamic centre in Tafleeh, a complex which would comprise a mosque, a health clinic, sports facilities, a school for teaching the Koran and other essential utilities.

"The Islamic Relief Society

established an office in Amman 18 months ago to carry out such projects," according to Dr. Isaam Al Filali, head of the society's committee for the Jordanian chapter.

He said that the office has been supervising several charitable schemes including the care of 1,800 orphans, providing them with food and clothing at a total cost of six million Saudi riyals spent over the past one and a half years.

"The society plans to set up a centre to teach women dress-making and weaving at a cost of JD 200,000, Dr. Filali said.

He said that the society also plans to set up 14 health clinics for Palestinian camps provided with all medical equipment and medical staff.

"The society now provides in-kind assistance to 300 Jordanian families in Amman, and now plans to expand services to other areas in Jordan," Filali added.

According to Dr. Jumaa, the projects will later include drilling of artesian wells, land reclamation and agricultural projects at Wadi Araba, Gbor Safi and Aqaba, all in the southern regions of the country which have been severely affected by this year's drought.

He said that the society has been providing financial and in-kind assistance to Islamic nations in Asia and Africa mainly benefiting poor regions particularly those in the rural areas.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Khalil Al Kofahi at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ Comprehensive book exhibition at Ajloun girls college.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture entitled "De Gaulle and the decolonisation" by Pierre Vidal-Naquet at the World Affairs Council — 8:30 p.m.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975
جورنال التيمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
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Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Borrowing after and before the crisis

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

A LEGITIMATE question is being asked repeatedly these days. If external borrowing was the major cause behind the economic crisis, why are we still arranging more foreign loans? How come that while we assail the previous indulgence in foreign indebtedness, we are busy searching for more of the same? If we cannot repay our outstanding debts, should we accumulate more? One must distinguish here between old debts, which were growing unabated and which brought us gradually but surely to the crisis and current borrowing, which takes place after the crisis.

Present borrowing is part of the solution and is catalyst to our correction programme. It cannot lead us to a crisis because we already have one. New borrowing is part of our correction programme. We cannot over-borrow simply because we cannot find commercial lenders any more. We have only to tap soft loans from

governments and international institutions. Those sources may lend us sparingly and under conditions that would protect us from ourselves.

The economic crisis that erupted in the last quarter of 1988 compelled us to undergo an adjustment process that could be too tough for the people to tolerate. This includes among other things a drastic drop in imports by more than 50 per cent due to lack of foreign exchange to finance imports. The new loans are meant to make the adjustment more smooth and gradual. This adjustment is spread over a number of years to avoid an abrupt change that

could have been forced in the absence of the planned adjustment programme. An abrupt adjustment could have gone further beyond the capacity of the people to take as had been the case in other countries like Sudan whose crisis was transformed into an economic collapse.

In the case of economic collapse resulting from lack of foreign exchange resources, the production efforts come to a complete standstill. Agricultural producers find no fertilisers or seeds; industry finds no raw materials or spareparts; investment finds no machinery or energy; and families find no

basic foodstuff. The economic adjustment programme and the loans that go with it are meant to avert the country an economic collapse.

The real success that Jordan achieved after the crisis is the speed by which the government was able to contain the crisis and prevent it from developing into an economic disaster. Instead of continuing to live in borrowed time as was the case that led to the crisis, the government wasted no more time. Jordan was able to deal with the crisis effectively on both the national and international levels. That is why we were able to restore stability

within nine months, a record time, after which the fundamentals of the economy started to improve, at even a faster pace than was originally hoped.

Of course, all loans are burdens, but there is a difference. Previous loans led to the crisis, while present ones part of an adjustment programme to give us longer grace period to clean up the mess and put our house in order gradually and in a systematic manner.

Borrowing in itself is not good or bad. It is what we do with the borrowed money that counts.

Iraq, Arabs have right of defence

IRAQ stands on solid grounds when it offers to destroy its chemical weapons if Israel and Iran accept to destroy their own mass destructive arsenals. By such a declaration, Iraq also proves its good intentions vis-a-vis not only Israel but also Iran which still poses a grave threat to Iraq's security. This Iraqi challenge has yet to be responded to in kind by the Israelis and Iranians who are feverishly developing their own mass destructive weapons. And when Iraq speaks out against the proliferation of nuclear and other weapons in the Middle East region, it speaks also on behalf of the rest of the Arab World whose security is being constantly eroded by the development and manufacturing of nuclear and chemical weapons in Israel. Thus the road to defuse the dangerous situation in the area is to take up the Iraqi challenge and proceed to destroy all forms of mass destructive weapons under international supervision. This is the only way out of the present predicament in which the countries of the Middle East now find themselves. Coupled with this Arab offer, however, there must be a parallel effort to settle the various regional disputes in the area that continuously threaten the security and stability of the entire region. Fortunately, there are enough valid international resolutions on all the conflicts of the Middle East which still provide the correct and legal basis for their settlement. The minute Israel and Iran decide to accept international and legitimate proposals for permanent peace, they will find in the Arab side a genuine readiness to proceed at full speed ahead to remove all roots of tension and instability. But as long as Iraq's offer to get rid of its mass destructive weapons on reciprocal basis with enemy countries is not positively responded to, then Baghdad and the rest of the Arab countries are duty bound to continue the development of their weapon systems to neutralise any threat to their security and survival.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily commented Saturday on an official visit by Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem to Syria and said that Jordan looks forward with great optimism to further strengthening of ties between Amman and Damascus. The paper said that the talks in Damascus are bound to bolster solidarity among the Arab countries confronting the common enemy and help the Arabs to deal with the new formidable challenges they face. There is no doubt that all steps taken by Amman and Damascus are bound to add more strength to the Arab Nation and are bound also to help end the differences between Damascus and Baghdad for the benefit of the Arab masses, the paper noted. In the face of the formidable challenge posed to the Arabs as a result of Israel's threats, said the paper, there is no alternative to continued concerted efforts at all levels and there is need for a race against time if the Arabs are to effectively deal with the looming threats. The time has come for the Arab leaders to take some kind of joint action in the face of Israel's arrogance and the time has come for Baghdad and Damascus to mend fences and to plan joint strategies vis-a-vis the common enemy, the paper noted. The expected rapprochement between Iraq and Syria, the paper added can bring hope and further optimism for the Arab countries everywhere.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily issues an urgent call on all the Muslims, the Christians and the Arabs everywhere in the Arab World to join their forces and halt the ongoing onslaught on the holy places of Palestine. Each Christian around the world should remember that on Maundy Thursday 1990 and as the Christian community was celebrating at the Holy Sepulchre the Jews began their open aggression on the Christian sites and the holy places in Jerusalem, Ibrahim Sakikiba noted. He said that the Arab countries unfortunately lack proper media campaigns abroad to convey to the whole world the dangerous development and the attack on the Christian and Muslim clergy in Arab Jerusalem. The attack on a Christian patriarch and holy places protected by the Christian and Muslim community in Arab Jerusalem should be conveyed through all possible means to the leaders of the world especially those countries like Russia which is exporting Jews to settle on Arab land in Palestine, the writer notes. The events of last Thursday, he says, reveal to the Arabs the dangerous dimension of the influx of Jews into Palestine. The immigrants, backed by the Israeli troops and Israeli leaders are now trying to evict the lawful owners of religious premises in order to settle the newcomers, to the holy city.

Sawt Al Shaab daily commented on King Hussein's statement at an interview with CNN television in which the King stressed the urgent need for the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 so as to bring peace to the Middle East region. The paper said that international laws consider all Israeli measures in Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied territories as null and void and call for a just settlement that can ensure the rights of the Palestinians in their homeland. The King has underlined the basic elements for peace in the region and urged the peace-loving nations to ensure the rights of the Palestinian people in the holy city of Jerusalem which has illegally been annexed by the Israeli authorities, the paper noted. It said that Israel has turned a deaf ear to all calls for peace and it is time for the peace-loving nations to interfere and bring about peace and establish justice in the region.

LETTERS

Disappointed

To the Editor:

AFTER reading the Jordan Times' coverage of the protest against the five visiting U.S. senators, organised by the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) (Apr. 12-13), I was disappointed to find that your esteemed newspaper and reporters failed to emphasise on what I, among the large majority of the participating protesters, thought was more important than the meeting of the senators with the ADC representatives.

As was reported in the article, the senators gave the protesters and their representatives the cold shoulder, and one of them made the very rude, undiplomatic remark that "Jerusalem is Israeli and is united." Yet, the ADC organisers were ultra passive and undignified in reaction to both the senators' attitudes, remarks and obvious pro-hardline Israeli support.

From 9:30 to 11:30 p.m., the crowd waited for the senators' arrival at the hotel. During that entire period of time, the crowd was almost brainwashed by the ADC representative of the importance of being "silent and peaceful." On many occasions, respectable gentlemen were literally pushed back "behind the red carpet" at the entrance of the hotel. One banner carried by a child was taken away by the organiser because "we don't want to be offensive." Whatever the message on the banner said could not have been as offensive as the senator's remark on Jerusalem and the senators' general attitude. A group of young men wearing the black and white chequered kufiyehs who wanted to participate were kept away from joining the protest. Upon the arrival of the senators, a group of teenage participants carrying banners began chanting: "Dole, Dole, you should know, we support the PLO," only to be shut up by the organiser. Even when the American Senate team was booed for the Jerusalem remark, the organiser also tried to shut them up.

After the extremely brief encounter between the senators and the representatives of the protest, where the senators were very rude, the organiser came under heavy criticism from the participants. When I pointed out to the organiser that this submissive, kissing-up policy, which we have been practising with the Americans for decades, does not work, his initial defence was: "This is not kissing-up, it's diplomacy." After insisting on my point of view, the organiser continued to say, "maybe we should have both doves and hawks (in the organisation)."

Who would normally argue against this fact in any political cause? But when one looks at the "doves" of our enemy one finds radicalism that is only typical of our most hawkish hawks. And our organiser must know that the Arab "doves" are multiplying while our hawks are being oppressed by people like him.

The organiser reiterated that it is enough that the senators accepted to meet with the ADC. "They refused to meet with the Jordanian members of the Lower and/or Upper House of Parliament." As far as I heard on Radio Jordan, it was the other way round. Irbit deputy Theeb Marji, who was at the protest, said that it was the deputies who were boycotting the American senators. Even if the ADC version is the correct one, this should be more reason not to be so submissive with the American delegation. It is not such a great honour to be met by such senators, especially with the terrible attitude and voting record on the Middle East that they have.

While the organisers were so submissive, an American embassy member of the staff, who did not want his name known, had a more aggressive and practical attitude. When asked by a Jordan Times reporter about how he thought the senators reacted to the protest, he told her: "I really don't know. But these sons of a bitches, the senators, should not have come here in the first place." He even said this on record.

I want to point out to the representatives of the ADC in Amman that they should remember the Arab part of the Arab American label they are trying to represent. Only by doing this can they hope to guarantee success and public support for their endeavours in Jordan, especially that they are hoping to organise a 4-day march to the River Jordan in which they plan to have 30,000 marchers, mainly from Jordan. It bothers me to say that I had been enthusiastic to participate in this march, but now I am wondering about the ADC's credibility and ability to really give a correct message of our feelings towards Palestine. And I know that many who were there for the protest feel the same way.

Therefore, the encounter between the protesters and the organisers concerning their attitude was, to my and many others' minds, the more important issue to tackle in your article. But for some reason, your esteemed reporters seemed to have avoided the entire issue as if there were ulterior motives involved.

Mohammad Atiyeh,
Amman.

What are you doing Radio Jordan?

To the Editor:

I ALMOST ate my heart out when I read in your April 12 edition that Sami Kamal was made to quit his job at Jordan Radio for budgetary reasons. I could not believe it — Sami out of all people? He is one of the best DJs I have ever heard; charming, witty, efficient, and extremely entertaining. He is fun to listen to. Please note, I am not a friend of Sami, as I have never had the honour to make his acquaintance. But to see such a lively and close-to-heart DJ that gives Jordan Radio a lot of credit is ridiculous. The reason being even more ridiculous and bad economics. Can't you cut cost in other areas, and I am sure there is plenty? Do you have to let go of an asset like Sami in order to reduce a marginal cost? Can't you first compare what he contributes versus what he costs? Like cutting off your right arm in order to "save" on energy (of blood circulation). If you as a public service want to be appreciated then please put Sami back on the air immediately. As some kind of representative of all those silent listeners out there, I urge you to reconsider Sami's absence and ease right away. Sami's public work is "our" property, not yours, thank you.

Safwan Tannir
P.O. Box : 3371
Amman.

France's far right has mainstream parties running scared

By Nicholas Kotch
Reuter

PARIS — Sergette Fargeau stands out a mile at meetings of the National Front, the French party that wants to repatriate non-European immigrants.

The black former beauty queen from Guadeloupe, a French possession in the Caribbean, is hardly a typical member of the most successful extreme right movement in Western Europe.

A more plausible portrait of a front activist might include the following features: white, male, middle-aged, wears blazers, likes plain talk and hard liquor, served in the armed forces and has never forgiven the political establishment for giving Algeria its independence in 1962.

But in common with a growing number of French voters, Fargeau's main reason for joining the front is her admiration for its charismatic leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen.

"All politicians are liars and I think the only one telling the truth is Mr. Le Pen," said Fargeau, who won the coveted "Miss France Overseas" crown in 1982 and now manicures nails for a living in eastern France.

It was lamentable, she complained, that Le Pen's support among French West Indians was so tiny as to be unmeasurable. "It's because of the media campaign against us which makes people think we are racist," she said in Nice, the wealthy Mediterranean resort where 2,500 front activists came to pay their homage to Le Pen early this month.

The front's congress was the best-attended in its 18 years of existence, reflecting a surge in popularity which is alarming both the Socialist government and the centre-right opposition.

The mood in Nice was buzzing with confidence as delegates thronging the bar capped each other's tales of breakthroughs in local elections.

The front's obsessions were on display at stalls rented by right-wing publishers, veterans' associations and groups linked to the traditionalist fringe of the Roman Catholic church which Pope John Paul has disavowed.

"Should homosexuals be burned?" asked one book title.

Young women distributed literature purporting to prove that France was overrun by eight million "foreigners" — front code for immigrants from Algeria, Morocco and black Africa.

The government says there are about four million immigrants in the population of 57 million.

Offering a brand of right-wing patriotism that is infused with antipathy for poor immigrants from France's former colonies, 61-year-old Le Pen has defied predictions that he would fade away.

The front's stock has never been higher. Its vote at almost every important by-election this year has risen sharply and a respected opinion poll in April showed Le Pen was liked by 17 per cent of the French, three per cent up on his March score.

Last December the front captured its only seat in the 577-member national assembly, winning in the drab northern town of Dreux on an anti-immigrant, law and order platform.

The result showed that a 1988 change in the electoral law, designed to keep fringe parties out of parliament, was no longer an insurmountable obstacle for the front.

"The big novelty is that the front now appears to more and more voters as the main opposition to the left," said Stephane

Rozes of the Sofres polling company. The front is taking voters from both sides of the spectrum.

Its "France first" image and hunt calls for many immigrants to be sent home appeal to traditional supporters of the RPR and UDF opposition parties, which have moved to the liberal centre on most issues.

The once-loyal Communist vote is collapsing but only partly due to events in Eastern Europe. Some of the front's best scores this year have been in "red belt" working class suburbs around Paris where Communist mayors have clung to power but at the cost of pandering to anti-immigrant sentiment.

But many analysts think the front's secret weapon is the mounting contempt for established politicians.

"There is a sense in which a vote for the front appears to be a punch in the nose for established parties," said Rozes.

Pascal Perrineau, a political science professor in Paris, agreed.

"The traditional right and left parties are in a state of such disintegration and internal division that the National Front appears to be the only united party," said Perrineau, a leading expert on Europe's extreme right.

In a state resembling panic, the RPR and UDF this month decided to toughen their language on immigration and proposed a more restrictive nationality code.

Even the government has had to admit the size of the Le Pen phenomenon and agreed to strengthen France's defences against illegal immigrants and bogus applicants for political asylum.

In Nice Le Pen held his audi-

ence spellbound with a 90-minute speech during which he linked crime and immigration.

He avoided any mention of Jews after series of remarks in the past two years for which he is now being prosecuted by the government.

But Jewish groups condemned the presence in Nice of Franz Schoenhuber, leader of West Germany's ultra-right Republicans and a former soldier in Hitler's Waffen SS. Front delegates roared their acclaim when Le Pen hailed his main ally in the European Parliament.

Despite the front's stated goal of widening its political platform to attract more voters, the subject inevitably returned to race and immigration.

A debate on social problems was quickly narrowed down to blaming newcomers for the crime rate and for taking jobs, houses and welfare benefits.

Bruno Megret, one of the front's top five, explained the front's new police on preserving the environment.

"Ecology is about protecting endangered species like the French people," he said.

The front policy on repatriation is to send home as many as possible for the foreigners who settled without approval and were subsequently authorised to stay.

Asked about their French-born children aged over 18 — a huge group — Megret replied: "They can stay for the moment but it's not impossible they will have to go."

And what of those North Africans who were brought to France as industrial workers by successive governments until the programme was stopped in 1974? "We shall see," Megret answered.

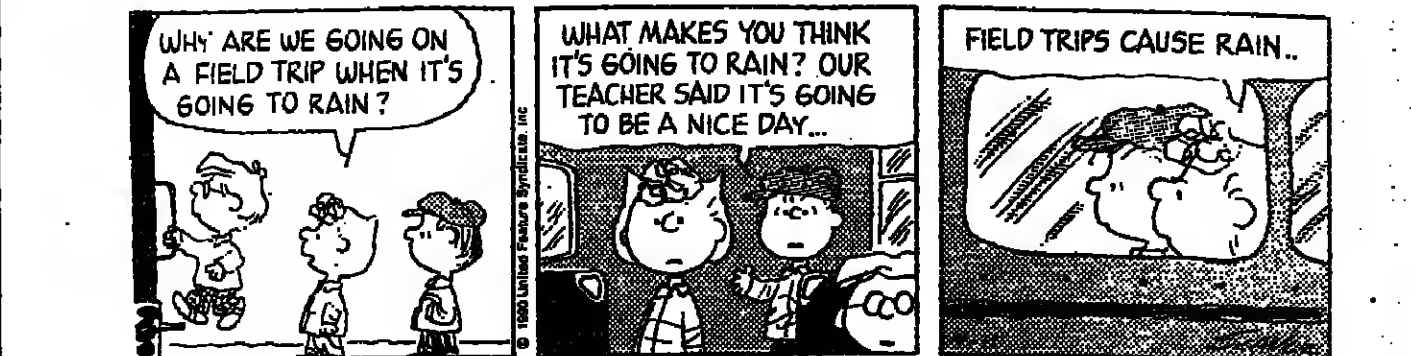
Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



LA SEMAINE DE

Suleiman Sweiss

Prélude à la charte

Le signal de départ a été donné: une commission pour la rédaction d'une charte nationale vient d'être formée et Sa Majesté le roi vient de lui donner ses directives. La commission va commencer ses travaux cette semaine.

Ainsi, la formation de cette assemblée et le discours du roi ont mis fin à des mois de spéculations, de discussions et d'attente. Un nombre considérable de forces politiques, d'intellectuels et de syndicalistes se méfiaient de l'idée même de charte. Ils y voyaient un substitut à la constitution, qui donne clairement le droit de former des partis politiques (art.16, §2). Ils croyaient que la charte viendrait limiter ce droit.

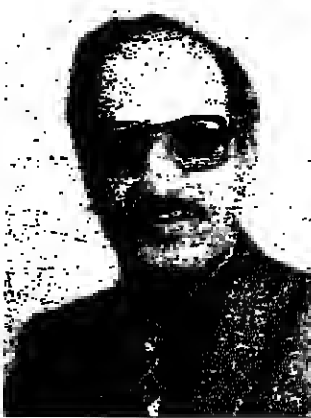
Autre point d'accrochage: la future charte sera mise au vote par le gouvernement, via un référendum. Or la constitution jordanienne ne contient aucun texte relatif à cette forme de consultation. C'est pourquoi la Chambre des députés avait demandé, dans sa réponse au discours du trône en novembre dernier, que la charte «passe par les canaux constitutionnels, en premier lieu le Parlement élu démocratiquement par le peuple».

On voit bien là l'ébauche d'une crise «constitutionnelle». A moins que la Chambre introduise un amendement à la constitution sur la question du référendum.

Certains se demandaient encore qui allait rédiger la charte prévue. La composition de la commission a donné une réponse à cette question. Y figurent des représentants de toutes les formations et de tous les courants politiques: les Frères musulmans, le Parti démocratique du peuple jordanien (PDPJ), le Parti communiste, le Groupe parlementaire démocrate-unioniste, les baassistes... On y trouve aussi des intellectuels, des avocats, des députés, des sénateurs, des enseignants, des économistes, des journalistes, des femmes, des jeunes...

Malgré les réserves émises à l'égard de certaines personnalités de la commission, celle-ci se révèle représentative de la situation politique et culturelle nationale, qu'elle est d'ailleurs sensée refléter.

A vrai dire, ce n'est pas la première fois que la Jordanie envisage d'adopter une charte. En 1928, cent cinquante personnalités «représentant toutes les tribus et la population de Transjordanie» s'étaient réunies



en «congrès national» pour adopter une charte nationale. Elles avaient élu un «comité exécutif» pour veiller à l'application des résolutions du congrès. Survenant quelques années après la fondation de l'émirat, l'ancienne charte insistait sur la souveraineté du peuple (d'où le refus du traité jordanobritannique), la démocratie (déjà), la protection de la Palestine contre la colonisation juive et l'indépendance du pays. Il est à noter que le pouvoir officiel n'était pas intervenu dans le congrès de 1928. Congrès, qui fut véritablement l'émancipation d'une volonté populaire.

Depuis, la société jordanienne s'est profondément transformée. Et le royaume d'aujourd'hui a peu de points communs avec l'émirat d'alors, ou même la Jordanie du début des années 1950, que certains hommes politiques du pays appelaient à l'époque «Syrie méridionale».

Qui sommes-nous? Quels sont les principes, qui unissent tous les Jordaniens, quelles que soient leurs idées, leur appartenance sociale, religieuse ou ethnique? Quels sont nos choix dans un monde en pleine mutation? Quel modèle de développement correspond à nos moyens et à nos ambitions? Comment réorganisons-nous notre relation à la Palestine, à sa cause et à son peuple? Optons-nous pour le capitalisme, qui se heurte de plus en plus à des difficultés majeures pour un socialisme en crise profonde? Quelles conceptions avons-nous de l'éducation, de la culture, de la démocratie, du pluralisme, de l'unité arabe. Comment évaluons-nous notre propre histoire, depuis la création de l'Emirat de Transjordanie en 1921?

Il s'agit là de quelques unes des nombreuses questions que devra se poser la commission dans la semaine et les mois à venir. C'est dire combien la tâche qui l'attend est difficile et nécessitera d'efforts.

Entretien avec l'historien Pierre Vidal-Naquet

Entre décolonisation gaullienne et colonisation israélienne

Helléniste, directeur d'études à l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales de Paris, responsable du Centre de Recherches Comparées sur les sociétés anciennes, Pierre Vidal-Naquet donne ce soir à Amman la deuxième de ses trois conférences consac-

rées au rôle et à l'attitude du général de Gaulle face à la décolonisation française. Il dit au «Jourdain» ce que lui a révélé son étude mais aussi les réflexions que lui inspire le problème israélo-palestinien. En historien et en intellectuel engagé.

Le Jourdain: Comment l'hellénisme que vous êtes en vient-il à se plonger dans un dossier contemporain comme celui de de Gaulle et la décolonisation?

Pierre Vidal-Naquet: J'ai toujours pensé que les historiens se spécialisent trop. C'est vrai que je suis un professeur d'histoire grecque, c'est mon métier. Cela dit, avant même la guerre d'Algérie, je pensais déjà qu'un historien devait être capable de travailler sur n'importe quel sujet. A condition de se donner les moyens nécessaires et de faire l'enquête qui s'impose. Quant à la décolonisation, c'est d'une part quelque chose que j'ai vécue, comme militant anti-colonialiste. D'autre part, c'est un sujet sur lequel il existe une vaste documentation, aisément accessible, notamment à l'Institut Charles de Gaulle de Paris, qui est un endroit très accueillant à l'égard des chercheurs. C'était finalement assez normal pour moi de travailler là-dessus.

L. J.: Que vous a révélé ce travail?

P. V.-N.: Ce qui m'a frappé, c'est, sur le plan personnel, la chance de de Gaulle de n'avoir pas été un officier de l'armée coloniale. Il a vécu sa seule expérience coloniale, on pourrait dire quasi coloniale, en Syrie et au Liban en 1930-1931, quand il était détaché à l'armée d'Orient. L'un des rares textes qu'on ait gardé de lui de cette époque, est un discours, adressé le 30 juillet 1930 à l'occasion de la distribution des prix à l'université Saint-Joseph, dans lequel il invitait les jeunes Libanais à bâtir un Etat. Ce qui montre qu'il ne se faisait guère d'illusions sur la pérennité de la domination coloniale. Et d'ailleurs, bâtir un Etat à toujours été son obsession. Pour la France, comme pour les autres: C'est une constante du général. Mais le fait qu'il n'ait pas été un officier de l'armée coloniale est très important, parce qu'il lui a permis d'échapper à deux grands stéréotypes: la brute ou le paternaliste, qui apprend la langue mais qui ne pense pas un instant que les populations dont il s'occupe pourraient un jour avoir envie de s'émanciper.

L. J.: L'attitude de de Gaulle à l'égard de l'Algérie n'est-elle pas, du coup, plus le fruit d'une pensée qu'une réaction à des événements pressants?

P. V.-N.: Il y a deux théories. Vous avez ceux qui pensent que de Gaulle est arrivé au pouvoir en sachant exactement ce qu'il allait faire. C'est la théorie, qu'il a lui-même développée dans ses «Mémoires». C'est la version qu'il donne à ses interlocuteurs pendant la brève période qui a séparé son départ du pouvoir de sa mort. Il explique que s'il avait dit en 1958 qu'il voulait donner l'indépendance à l'Algérie, il aurait été renversé le soir même et qu'il n'aurait rien pu faire. L'autre théorie est celle que sou-

tient par exemple Tixier-Vignancourt au procès du général Salan en mai 1962, quand il dit que de Gaulle a effectivement toujours su ce qu'il voulait faire, mais qu'il a usé pour cela de la ruse, du mensonge, bref de toute une stratégie digne de Machiavel, au pire sens du terme. Si l'on voulait à tout prix résumer, je dirais qu'en 1958 il savait éminemment qu'il n'était pas question d'intégrer l'Algérie à la France. Il n'avait aucun doute là-dessus. S'il n'a pas prononcé le mot «intégration», c'est de façon tout à fait délibérée, consciente. Mais je dirais aussi qu'il a longtemps espéré n'être pas obligé d'en passer par des négociations de fond avec le FLN [Front de libération nationale]. On constate, dans les «Lettres, Notes et Carnets».



Pierre Vidal-Naquet.

qu'au début de Gaulle imaginait volontiers un cessez-le-feu et ensuite une discussion avec des élites, avec différentes tendances. Il a longtemps cru à la «troisième force», en pensant que s'y intégreraient certains éléments du FLN. Il n'a pas tout de suite vu qu'il faudrait en passer par les négociations avec le seul FLN. Le moment décisif à cet égard est constitué, à mon sens, par les journées de décembre 1960, quand les Algériens sont descendus dans la rue et ont crié non seulement «Algérie algérienne», ce qu'ils étaient encouragés à faire d'une certaine manière par les pouvoirs publics, mais aussi «Abbas au pouvoir». Quand on regarde ce que de Gaulle planifiait avant le référendum du 8 janvier 1961 et ce qu'il a fait ensuite, on s'aperçoit qu'il y a eu une évolution très, très profonde. Une évolution vers les négocia-

Gaulle, à partir du mois d'août 1940, ce sont les colonies. Etablissements français de l'Inde, l'Inde du Pacifique et Afrique Equatoriale française, qui se sont ralliées à lui. Je ne crois pas qu'il était alors question d'émancipation. Du reste, en juillet 1940, de Gaulle dit que la conduite du gouvernement de Vichy ne peut mener qu'à la révolte des indigènes. Il est évidemment contraire. Il y a donc cet aspect de la France empire, qui doit le rester. Mais on décèle aussi chez lui le contraire. De Gaulle est renseigné d'assez près sur ce que font les Américains, qui sont à l'époque fortement anti-colonialistes. Il sait que si la France ne prend pas les devants, ce sont les Etats-Unis qui feront le travail, et cela, il ne le veut pas non plus. D'où sa conception, à partir de 1943, d'une possible émancipation partielle des colonies, sous les au-

spices de la France.

L. J.: L'image de l'Etat chez de Gaulle, son désir de sauver la France, ne lui donnent-ils pas une capacité à penser libération contre l'indépendance?

P. V.-N.: Sans aucun doute. C'est l'attitude qu'il adopte vis-à-vis de la Syrie et du Liban: «Bâtissez un Etat», leur dit-il. C'est aussi une certaine sensibilité au patriotisme, qui ne se limite pas au patriotisme français. Mais dans la France libre, vous aviez à la fois des nationalistes, qui voulaient tout préserver, et des gens, comme Savary, capables de concevoir l'émancipation des autres. De Gaulle est en somme à l'intersection des deux. Il s'est progressivement fait à l'idée d'admettre cette perspective, à condition que ce soit fait sous le contrôle de la France, à condition qu'elle donne mais ne se laisse pas arracher les choses.

L. J.: Pourquoi la décolonisation de l'Algérie a-t-elle pris une tournure si différente de celle de l'Afrique Noire?

P. V.-N.: En Afrique Noire et Madagascar, la décolonisation va très vite. D'une certaine manière, tout est réglé en une dizaine de jours. Face à cela, la guerre d'Algérie a duré quatre ans de plus. Et il faut noter qu'on a tué plus d'Algériens sous de Gaulle que sous ses prédécesseurs et que la guerre a été menée de façon extrêmement rude. En Algérie, de Gaulle voulait gagner la guerre avant de faire la paix. D'ailleurs, il l'a gagnée. Ce qui n'a pas en d'incidences très heureuses pour ce pays, car les structures de l'Algérie combattante ont été anéanties. Résultat: il ne restait plus qu'une seule force, c'est à dire l'armée de l'extérieur, celle qui ne s'était pas battue. Afrique Noire et Algérie sont en apparence deux mondes différents. Mais, l'Algérie a pour ainsi dire joué le rôle de banque du sang de l'Afrique. Si la décolonisation de cette dernière s'est déroulée sans trop de heurts, c'est aussi parce qu'il y avait une guerre en Algérie et que la France ne pouvait s'offrir trois ou quatre autres conflits de cette envergure.

«Si Israël poursuit dans la voie actuelle, il deviendra une sorte d'Algérie française»

L. J.: A la hure de la décolonisation algérienne, comment considérez-vous l'occupation israélienne de la Cisjordanie?

P. V.-N.: Israël est incontestablement le résultat d'une sorte de colonisation de peuplement, au même titre que les Etats-Unis, la Nouvelle-Zélande ou l'Australie. Toutes colonisations, qui se sont faites sur la base de l'expulsion,

(Suite page 6)

EN BREF

Charte. La commission royale, chargée d'élaborer une nouvelle charte pour le royaume, a commencé ses travaux hier. Sa formation avait été annoncée lundi dernier par décret royal. Elle comprend 60 personnalités, dont 11 sénateurs, 16 députés, 10 académiciens, 8 écrivains et journalistes, 4 femmes ainsi qu'un membre du Conseil national palestinien. Les mouvements nationalistes comptent 6 représentants, les islamistes 7 et les partis de gauche, dont le PCJ, 5. La commission, dont les travaux devraient durer au moins six mois, rédigera la charte, qui «mènera le pays vers le retour au pluralisme politique», a déclaré mardi le souverain hachémite.

Corruption. Le tribunal d'Amman a entamé lundi l'examen du premier des neuf dossiers relatifs à la corruption administrative, que lui a récemment transmis la Chambre des députés. Au banc des accusés figure l'ancien directeur du ministère de l'Approvisionnement, Abdallah Hawamdeh, inculpé d'abus de prérogatives dans l'adjudication, en avril 1989, de stocks de riz à une société locale. M. Hawamdeh avait été arrêté pour interrogatoire le mois dernier puis remis en liberté moyennant le versement d'une caution de 250.000 dinars.

Loi d'urgence. Le gouvernement jordanien «s'apprête à établir une nouvelle loi d'urgence restrictive, applicable uniquement au domaine de la sécurité nationale», a déclaré mercredi à Amman le ministre de l'Intérieur. Salem Masa'adeb a ajouté que cette mesure devait être prise «en prévision de l'abrogation de la loi martiale», en vigueur depuis 1967, et que le projet de loi serait soumis au Parlement «probablement dans deux semaines». Le premier ministre jordanien, Mondar Badrane, avait annoncé en janvier que l'abrogation de la loi martiale interviendrait «dans quatre à six mois».

Sénateurs. Le leader de la minorité républicaine du Sénat américain, Robert Dole, a déclaré vendredi en Israël qu'il pousserait l'assemblée à revenir sur sa résolution reconnaissant Jérusalem comme capitale de l'Etat hébreu. M. Dole, qui achève ce week-end une tournée régionale avec quatre autres élus américains, s'est ouvert de son intention à Yitzhak Shamir, en expliquant que cette décision était le fruit de ses entretiens avec les dirigeants égyptien, jordanien, syrien et irakien.

OLP-OMS. L'OLP a de nouveau demandé jeudi à Genève l'admission de «l'Etat palestinien» au sein de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS) et invité l'institution des Nations Unies à ne pas se soumettre, comme ce fut le cas l'an dernier, aux «pressions et au chantage politique des Etats-Unis et d'Israël». Dans une lettre adressée au directeur de l'OMS, l'observateur permanent de la Palestine auprès de l'ONU presse l'organisation d'inscrire la question à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine assemblée mondiale de la santé, prévue à Genève du 7 au 18 mai.

Débat. Le président de l'Etat d'Israël, Haim Herzog, a accordé mercredi un nouveau délai de 15 jours à Shimon Peres pour former un nouveau gouvernement. Le leader du Parti travailliste avait dû renoncer au dernier moment à présenter son cabinet à l'approbation de la Chambre, après la démission de deux députés ultra-orthodoxes. Leur soutien lui était indispensable pour assurer une majorité de 61 voix sur 120 au Parlement.

Droits de l'Homme. Les directions du Parti travailliste et de trois formations de la gauche sioniste israélienne se sont entendues le week-end dernier pour inclure dans leur accord de coalition une clause sur le respect des droits de l'Homme dans les territoires occupés. Le futur gouvernement de Shimon Peres, s'il voit le jour, «examinera périodiquement les règlements militaires en vigueur pour veiller à ce qu'ils soient conformes au respect des droits de l'Homme», à la loi israélienne et aux engagements internationaux d'Israël, stipule notamment l'accord.

Colons. L'occupation sauvage par des colons juifs, mercredi à Jérusalem, d'un bâtiment chrétien près du Saint-Sépulcre a provoqué jeudi des échauffourées, au cours desquelles le patriarche grec orthodoxe a été rossé par la police et les lieux saints envahis par des gaz lacrymogènes. Hormis le maire de Jérusalem, les autorités israéliennes n'avaient toujours pas réagi hier à cette affaire. Une centaine de jeunes, originaires de New York et membre de «Ateret Kohanim», organisation dont le but est de judaïser la Vieille Ville, occupaient toujours les lieux hier soir. C'est la première fois que des colons juifs tentent de s'installer dans le quartier chrétien de la Ville Sainte.

Otages. La Française Jacqueline Valente, 31 ans, son compagnon belge Fernand Houetkins, 42 ans, et leur petite fille Sophie «Liberté», 2 ans, ont été libérés mardi matin à Beyrouth, après avoir été retenus en otages pendant près de deux ans par le Fatah-CR d'Abou Nidal. L'affaire a provoqué la désapprobation de plusieurs pays à l'encontre du cavalier seul de la France, notamment à l'égard de la Libye, dont Paris a officiellement loué les efforts. Washington a ainsi demandé mercredi «des informations sur la libération des otages», ajoutant que «jusqu'à présent, [la Maison Blanche] n'était pas en possession de ce qui a conduit à cette libération». Le ministre français des Affaires étrangères, Roland Dumas, s'est pour sa part élevé jeudi contre le «faux procès» fait à la France. Il a affirmé qu'il n'y avait eu «aucun marchandage avec les ravisseurs» et «aucun lien» entre le dénouement et la restitution au début de l'année à la Libye de trois avions «Mirage», bloqués par la France depuis plus de 3 ans.

Prêt. Le Koweït est prêt à créer un fonds de 100 millions de dollars pour promouvoir les investissements en Hongrie, a assuré jeudi à Budapest le ministre hongrois du Commerce. L'émirat du Golfe a d'ores et déjà donné son accord de principe mais en exigeant que la Hongrie fournisse une liste de projets concrets à financer.

Mandela. Nelson Mandela est attendu aujourd'hui à Londres pour un grand concert «pop», organisé en son honneur au stade de Wembley. Le chef historique du Congrès national africain (ANC) ne rencontrera probablement pas le premier ministre britannique pendant son séjour. Un porte-parole du gouvernement a confirmé jeudi que Nelson Mandela n'avait pas répondu à l'invitation personnelle de Margaret Thatcher. Certains y voient l'illustration de l'irritation de l'ANC, provoquée par les appels de la Grande-Bretagne à lever les sanctions économiques contre l'apartheid.

Coupable. L'URSS a reconnu dans la nuit de jeudi à vendredi sa responsabilité dans la mort de 15.000 soldats et officiers polonais, disparus dans les années 1940 près de Katyn, en Biélorussie. L'Union Soviétique «exprime son profond regret pour cette tragédie et la considère comme l'un des pires crimes de Staline», a indiqué Radio-Moscou en anglais. Cette annonce coïncide avec l'arrivée vendredi dans la capitale soviétique du président polonais, le général Wojciech Jaruzelski, pour une visite officielle de quatre jours.

Toujours l'exil. L'ex-roi Michel a finalement renoncé jeudi à effectuer un «pèlerinage spirituel» en Roumanie à l'occasion des fêtes de Pâques, à la suite de l'annulation de son visa par les autorités de ce pays. Malgré la décision de Bucarest, l'ancien souverain avait embarqué à l'aéroport de Genève jeudi matin, mais il a finalement cédé aux exigences des autorités roumaines, qui avaient prévenu la famille royale qu'elle ne pourrait pas descendre de l'avion. L'ex-roi Michel est en exil à l'étranger depuis son abdication le 30 décembre 1947.

Renault SA. Le gouvernement français doit soumettre le 26 avril à l'Assemblée nationale un projet de loi transformant la firme automobile «Régie Renault» en société anonyme, dont l'Etat détendra directement ou indirectement 75% des droits de vote. Ce changement de statut juridique permettra l'exécution de l'accord conclu entre Renault et Volvo en février. Accord, qui prévoit l'achat de 20% des parts de Renault SA par le constructeur suédois.

Métro. La ville de Paris expérimentera à partir de juin prochain le métro de l'an 2000, un tube long de 46 mètres, en forme de boa, dont le prototype a été présenté mardi dans la capitale française par la direction des transports parisiens (RATP). Ce nouveau métro, sans aucune séparation entre les wagons, présente toute une série d'innovations techniques, dont des essieux orientés à roues indépendantes. Si l'expérience s'avère concluante, la RATP l'adoptera pour remplacer, entre 1998 et 2010, la totalité des 1.400 wagons de rames non-pneumatiques actuellement en service.

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Le Proche-Orient et le Golfe malades de leur environnement

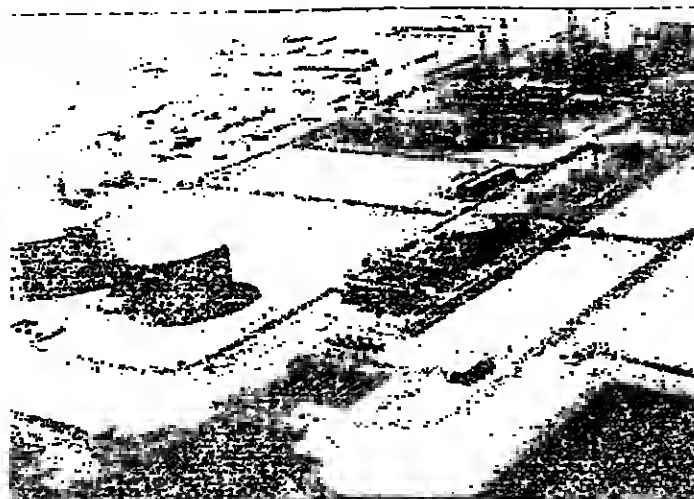
Manque d'eau, désertification, chez les uns; pollution inquiétante chez les autres: le Proche-Orient et les pays du Golfe ne sont pas épargnés par les problèmes

Le Proche-Orient rime aujourd'hui avec pénuries d'eau, érosion des sols et désertification. Le Golfe Persique se retrouve tristement dans le lot des mers les plus polluées du globe. Tel se présente le constat, plutôt alarmiste, que vient de dresser à Nairobi le directeur du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement (PNUE), Mostafa Tolba. La plupart des pays de la région souffrent d'une détérioration de leur environnement, causée par le sous-développement et l'industrialisation, a-t-il souligné cette semaine.

Dans les Etats du Golfe, cette dernière, qui se produit à un rythme accéléré, a déjà mené à une pollution de l'air et des eaux, dont le degré dépasse allègrement les limites acceptables, averti Mostafa Tolba. Le Koweït et le Qatar, notamment, connaissent désormais le désagréable et dangereux phénomène des brouillards acides, concentrations de sulfates et de nitrates.

L'Arabie Saoudite fait figure de principale responsable. Selon le directeur du PNUE, ses complexes industriels géants de Yanbu, sur la Mer Rouge, ou de Jubail, sur le Golfe, ont amplement contribué au développement des facteurs de pollution. Les Saoudiens, eux, n'en croient pas un mot, si l'on en croit un sondage publié l'an dernier par l'Institut Louis Harris de New York pour le compte du PNUE. Une majorité d'entre eux estime en effet que l'environnement de leur pays se porte plutôt bien.

Et pourtant, Mostafa Tolba affirme que le Golfe «est 43 fois plus pollué que toute autre étendue d'eau de la même superficie dans le monde». Déjà touchée avant la guerre irano-irakienne de 1980-1988, cette mer est devenue, assure-t-il, un vrai dépo-



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l'Irak. Ces conférences, accueillies par le Koweït, se sont même poursuivies pendant le conflit et ont conduit à l'élaboration, avec le PNUE, d'un plan d'action et d'un traité pour la protection de l'environnement marin. Plan et traité, auxquels ont adhéré tous les Etats du Golfe.

Au Proche-Orient, l'insalubrité de l'eau se révèle être le problème numéro un. Sous-développement oblige, les épidémies y reprennent de la vigueur. Mostafa Tolba a ainsi cité le cas de son pays natal, l'Egypte, où sont signalés de plus en plus fréquemment des cas de bilharziose, une maladie parasitaire tropicale due aux eaux polluées, ou de diarrhées infantiles.

Autre signe inquiétant au Proche-Orient: la mauvaise utilisation des terres. Selon le PNUE, la construction de routes, d'aéroports, de logements, de palais et autres monuments de

d'environnement. Problèmes, qui voient aujourd'hui les Nations Unies tirer la sonnette d'alarme.

se faire en dépit du bon sens, sur des terres fertiles. Les systèmes traditionnels d'irrigation, responsables du gaspillage de grandes quantités d'eau et de la salinisation des sols, contribuent eux aussi à la chute sensible de la productivité agricole.

«Il n'existe pas de solution facile au problème de l'eau dans cette région», a reconnu le directeur du PNUE. D'autant moins d'ailleurs, que les possibilités de «conflits», dus au partage des ressources limitées au départ ne sont pas à exclure.

L'Egypte, par exemple, partage le Nil, dont les eaux sont déjà surexploitées, avec le Soudan et l'Ethiopie, alors que le Jourdain, également surexploité, est convoité par la Jordanie, Israël et la Syrie. Des querelles identiques sont en permanence prêtes à éclater sur les rives de l'Euphrate, dont le cours traverse la Turquie, la Syrie et l'Irak.

«Nous examinons très sérieusement à l'heure actuelle l'éventuelle extension du concept de sécurité nationale, dans la région, à la sécurité de l'environnement», a précisé Mostafa Tolba. Tout en appelant la communauté internationale à mettre un terme au transfert, souvent incontrôlé, de déchets des pays riches vers les pays pauvres. (D'après agences).

CNP

Probable réduction d'effectifs

La commission préparatoire à la formation d'un nouveau Conseil national palestinien (CNP) a achevé lundi ses travaux à Amman en recommandant une réduction du nombre des membres de l'assemblée, qui devrait passer selon elle de 452 à 400 tout au plus. Par ailleurs, la commission a finalement maintenu le système de «désignation» des membres du CNP, appliqué jusqu'à présent en raison de l'impossibilité à organiser des élections. Ces derniers sont ainsi désignés par un comité formé de la présidence du CNP, du Comité exécutif de l'OLP (CEOLP) et des secrétaires généraux des différentes factions palestiniennes.

Les recommandations de la commission seront soumises pour approbation aux instances dirigeantes de

l'OLP, bien que le mouvement de la résistance islamique «Hamas», qui jouit d'une large audience dans la bande de Gaza, ait refusé de participer aux travaux d'Amman. Hamas avait exigé l'adoption du principe électif, réclamant, en cas d'impossibilité, 40% des sièges du CNP où il compte six représentants.

Par ailleurs, Mahmoud Abbas (Abou Mazen) et Abdallah Hourani, membres du CEOLP, sont arrivés dans la capitale jordanienne jeudi. Les deux responsables palestiniens doivent notamment préparer la venue de Yasser Arafat, attendu cette semaine à Amman. La dernière visite du chef de l'OLP dans le royaume hachémite remonte au 19 décembre 1989. (D'après agences)

Entretien avec Pierre Vidal-Naquet

(Continued from page 5)

du refoulement et même, dans un certain nombre de cas, de l'extermination des populations locales.

L. J.: Le parallèle entre l'intifada et la résistance algérienne vous paraît-il abusif?

P. V.-N.: Je ne crois pas que ce soit un parallèle abusif, ni caricatural. Mais, ce sont deux phénomènes différents, car je ne crois pas du tout que les gens qui font l'intifada veulent chasser les Israéliens. Je crois au contraire qu'ils sont parfaitement réalistes et qu'ils savent que les Israéliens ne partiront pas. Alors qu'au fond, les gens du FLN se rendaient compte, non moins bien, que la coexistence avec les Français d'Algérie serait difficile car les relations étaient fondamentalement inégalitaires. Ce que veulent les gens de l'intifada, c'est une séparation, avec d'un côté Israël et de l'autre la Palestine. Il y a là une différence capitale entre les deux situations et les amis palestiniens que j'ai rencontrés très récemment. Cela dit, si la guerre d'Algérie peut avoir inspiré les responsables de l'intifada, l'intifada à son tour a encouragé la révolte des Algériens d'octobre 1988. Le vrai danger que courent à mon avis les Israéliens, c'est de se «piednégrifier». Au fur et à mesure que les Palestiniens pénétreront à titre de prolétaires dans la société israélienne, il est évident que la séparation deviendra de plus en plus difficile. Si Israël poursuit dans la voie actuelle, il deviendra une sorte d'Algérie française. Le danger de la situation actuelle vient de ce que les Israéliens n'ont pas su tirer les leçons de l'histoire. Ils ont fait aussi aux Palestiniens, qui travaillent chez eux et aux Arabes d'Israël, de plus en plus gagnés par une conscience palestinienne. Il y a là une évolution, qui risque de transformer le peuple israélien en peuple dirigeant.

en peuple classe à la façon des pieds noirs.

L. J.: Que pensez-vous de l'immigration massive des juifs soviétiques et des pays de l'Est vers Israël?

P. V.-N.: Ce que je trouve grave dans cette affaire, c'est que les gens n'ont pas le choix. Ils ne peuvent plus aller en Amérique, alors que la majorité d'entre eux souhaiterait plutôt y aller.

L. J.: Y voyez-vous un risque de manipulation affective ou psychologique à des fins politiques?

P. V.-N.: Non. Les juifs soviétiques, comme jadis les noirs américains vis-à-vis des Etats africains indépendants, ont tendance à idéaliser radicalement Israël. Il ne faut pas exagérer non plus l'ampleur du phénomène. Quand Yasser Arafat dit 300.000 juifs soviétiques par an, ça fait 3 millions en 10 ans. Ils sont 2,5 millions en URSS et ils ne viendront pas tous en Israël. Le vrai danger, c'est si on les installe dans les territoires occupés.

L. J.: Faudrait-il aujourd'hui à Israël un équivalent de de Gaulle?

P. V.-N.: Sans le moindre doute. Mais on ne voit pas qui. Vous avez des gens qui en ont la capacité intellectuelle, comme Ezer Weizman, mais, jusqu'à présent, on n'en voit pas qui en ait la capacité politique. Il faudrait probablement une énorme crise, qui amènerait un personnage charismatique comme de Gaulle au pouvoir. Ben Gourion aurait peut-être pu jouer ce rôle. Rabin en est parfaitement incapable et Peres, je le crains, aussi. Les Israéliens sont dans une position tragique, au sens grec du terme: ils s'avancent les yeux ouverts et cependant aveugles vers une situation de danger maximal pour eux.

Propos recueillis par Alain Renon.

A L'AFFICHE

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Télévision

Lino Ventura, le tendre dur

Né en 1919 en Italie, Angelo Borini, alias Lino Ventura, vient s'établir en France avec ses parents à l'âge de 8 ans. Après de courtes études, il fait un peu tous les métiers et s'essaie dans le catch où il réussit brillamment. Mais un accident au cours d'un combat l'oblige à renoncer au ring.

Sa carrure, cependant, ne laisse pas les cinéastes indifférents. Il débute en 1949 sous la houlette de Becker («Touchez pas au Grisbi»). Il devient célèbre avec son interprétation du «Gorille», personnage herculéen soulevant des voitures.

L'étiquette de bonne ou mauvaise brute, bourru et plutôt sérieuse, va rapidement lui coller à la peau. D'autant qu'à partir de la fin des années 1950, il enchaîne les tournages à un rythme effréné. On le trouve à l'affiche du «Fauve est lâché» (Labro, 1958), de «Classe tous risques» (Sautet, 1959), d'«Un Taxi pour Tobrouk» (La Patel-

lière, 1961)...

Mais Ventura ne se laisse pas enfermer dans des rôles de brutes. On découvre alors, peu à peu, un comédien plus souple, certes le plus souvent en vadrouille entre les rôles de policier et de gangster. Le film «Les Barbouzes» de Lantier, réalisé en 1963 et que présente la JTV, vendredi prochain, n'échappe pas à la règle. On le trouve cependant dans la peau d'un professeur à principes et d'un père un peu dépassé dans «La Gifle» de Pinoteau, aux côtés d'Isabelle Adjani et Annie Girardot.

Lino Ventura s'est éteint en 1987, après avoir tourné dans plus de 100 longs métrages après avoir interprété le rôle du général Della Chiesa, aux prises avec la mafia, dans «Cent jours à Palerme» (Ferrera, 1984). Un film de cinéma vérité, qui ne restera pas dans les annales.

EXPOSITIONS

Mathématique en Méditerranée. Prêtée par le musée d'histoire de Marseille, l'exposition se compose de panneaux retraçant l'histoire des mathématiques depuis les tablettes babyloniennes jusqu'au théorème de Fermat (numération, théorie des nombres, équations algébriques, géométrie, astronomie...). Centre culturel français, jusqu'au dimanche 29 avril. Entrée libre. Tél: 634445.

CONFERENCES

De Gaulle et la décolonisation. Helleniste, directeur d'études à l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences sociales de Paris, l'historien français Pierre Vidal-Naquet évoque la politique du général de Gaulle face aux mouvements indépendantistes dans les anciennes colonies françaises. World Affairs Council, à Amman, dimanche 15 avril à 20h30 (en anglais) et université du Yarmouk, à Irbid, mardi 17 avril à 11h00 (en français).

Vous écrivez?

Si la plume vous démange, que vous écrivez en français, «Le Jourdain» vous ouvre ses pages hebdomadaires. Vos idées de sujets, locaux et régionaux, comme vos suggestions, y sont les bienvenues.

Alain Renon, French section, Jordan Times. PO Box 6710. Tél: 667171.

CINEMA

TELEVISION

DIMANCHE

Raiders of the lost Ark, de Steven Spielberg, avec Harrison Ford, Karen Allen et Paul Freeman (1981). Roi Arthur des temps modernes, un archéologue (Harrison Ford) part à la recherche de l'Arche Perdue. Cette fois, pour empêcher les nazis de s'en emparer...

Hans Christian Andersen, de Charles Vidor, avec Danny Kaye, Zizi Jeanmaire, Farley Granger et John Qualen (1952). L'histoire romantique de l'écrivain danois du XIXe siècle. L'imagination poétique, qui caractérise ses célèbres «Contes», est la grande absente du film, en forme de comédie musicale... Malheureusement.

Centre américain, jeudi 19 avril à 15h00 (en anglais).

Ciné-club. Durant le mois de Ramadan: un seul long métrage quotidien à 20h30. Cette semaine est consacrée au réalisateur égyptien Ahmad Saba'wi, de passage à Amman. Parallèlement, le ciné-club organise deux projections de documentaires sur «la consommation», en collaboration avec l'Association nationale de défense des consommateurs (ANDC), au centre culturel royal (20h30).

Dimanche 15: «The House of the Judge», d'Ahmad Saba'wi; «A day in a Grand Store», documentaire français (RCC, avec l'ANDC).

Lundi 16: «What happened to the World?», d'Ahmad Saba'wi.

Mardi 17: «The Slaughter», d'Ahmad Saba'wi; documentaire (RCC, avec l'ANDC).

Mercredi 18: «Anter carries his sold», d'Ahmad Saba'wi. La projection du film sera suivie d'un débat (en arabe) avec le réalisateur.

Jendredi 19: «The Begger», d'Ahmad Saba'wi.

Vendredi 20: «The mute», d'Ahmad Saba'wi.

Samedi 21: «Collapse», d'Ahmad Saba'wi.

Films en version originale. Tél: 639091. Boite de l'université de Jordanie, première à droite après l'hôtel Jérusalem puis première à gauche. Le ciné-club se trouve à environ 300m, sur la gauche.

MARDI

18h00 - Des Chiffres et des Lettres: jeu.

18h20 - Espace francophone: documentaire sur les pays de langue française.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Aujourd'hui en Jordanie: magazine local réalisé et présenté par Saleh Madi.

MERCREDI

18h00 - La Valise en Canton (3), ou l'histoire romantique de la chanteuse d'origine portugaise Linda de Suza.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Le Cycle des Fleurs: documentaire.

JEUDI

18h00 - Des Chiffres et des Lettres: jeu.

18h30 - La Chance aux Chansons: émission de variétés françaises, animée par Pascal Seyran.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Science à la Une: documentaire.

VENREDI

17h30 - «Les Barbouzes», de Georges Lautner, avec Lino Ventura, Francis Blanche et Mireille Darc. Après la mort d'un important marchand d'armes, la France met ses services secrets sur la piste de l'épouse du défunt pour lui échapper d'importants documents...

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Portraits: documentaire sur les femmes dans le monde du travail. Cette semaine: les trempouces.

SAMEDI

18h00 - Cousteau à la redécouverte du monde: documentaire.

19h00 - Le Journal.

19h15 - Sauvage et Beau: documentaire sur les animaux sauvages.

JEUX

Mots croisés

par Florence Monest

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

Horizontalement.
1: continu. 2: qu'il touche; colère. 3: lie; trappues. 4: apprêt; choisis. 5: fin de messe phonétique; freiné. 6: exhausse les voeux; négatif. 365 jours. 7: étendues d'eau; dans latin. 8: accélérer phonétiquement; amie du chien. 9: pas triste; oodonne; spécialité 10: dominera.

Verticalement.
A: raillerie. B: trouble généralement violent; vient après le C. C: dans la gamme; article arabe; infamie. D: enfermer; ça suffit phonétique. E: dévalent les montagnes. F: zone nuageuse. G: préposition. H: refuse. I: elles courent de 30 à 39. J: spécialité; ne sont pas acquies.

(Solution la semaine prochaine)

Solution de la grille N. 5:

Horizontalement.
1: palisades. 2: ri; nu; roi. 3: émigration. 4: tété; ligne. 5: cr; astre. 6: na; it; ds. 7: lire; ne. 8: issue; tes. 9: traverser. 10: nu; sua.

Verticalement.
A: prétention. B: almerais. C: it. D: ingénieurs. E: sûr; eau. F: Alain; va. G: artiste. H: doigt; tri. I: étourdie. J: née; ses.

LE SAVIEZ-VOUS ?

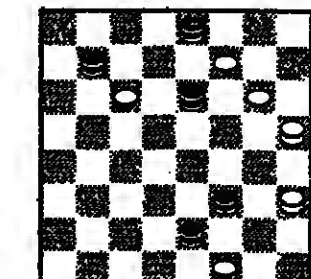
SEULS. Le nombre de familles monoparentales a augmenté de près de 22% au Japon au cours des cinq dernières années, principalement en raison du nombre croissant des divorces, selon une enquête du ministère nippon de la Santé. Selon ce rapport, les familles monoparentales dirigées par des femmes ont atteint le nombre de 849.200 l'an dernier (plus 18,3% par rapport à 1984). Les foyers tenus par des hommes s'élevaient à 173.300 (plus 3,6%).

MUSEE DE L'HORREUR. Le musée de Neubrandenburg (nord de la RDA) négocie actuellement avec l'armée est-allemande afin d'obtenir le classement comme monument historique d'un charnier stalinien, récemment découvert dans la région. Le musée souhaite aménager le site en cimetière et voir classé un terrain boisé, proche de la localité de Fünfeichen, où selon les historiens locaux sont morts plusieurs milliers d'Allemands prisonniers des Soviétiques.

PLANTES ANTI-SIDA. L'Organisation mondiale de la Santé (OMS) entend développer la recherche scientifique sur les plantes médicinales dans le cadre de la lutte contre le sida. «A condition de les sélectionner et de les évaluer convenablement, les plantes utilisées en médecine traditionnelle fourniront des médicaments anti-HIV (non générique du virus) actifs», estime un rapport de l'OMS. Onze plantes, employées en Chine, ont d'ores et déjà révélé «une action inhibitrice in vitro contre le virus», précise le document de l'OMS.

DAMES

Problème N. 6



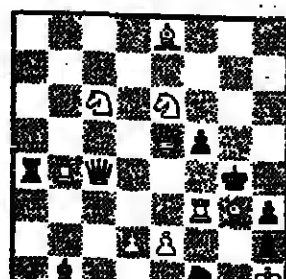
Les blancs gagnent en six coups.

Solution du problème N. 5:

B. 21-25; N. 14-21; B. 25-20; N. 5-14; B. 15-12; N. 8-15; B. 20-18.

ECHECS

Problème N. 6:



Mai avec les blancs en deux coups.

Solution du problème N. 5:

Cd4-e6.

Lilliput world of animals

By Jean Chabrier

THIS is the story and adventure of a man who declares that he has no scientific knowledge or culture. Only a great love of animals.

First of all, it should be known that he is shorter, much shorter, although he is the eldest, than his brothers and sisters. And his schoolfellows used to make fun of him. While still a child, he used to seek comfort from animals which, quite naturally, did not have those hurtful words for him. And that is how this complexed being came to love animals so much.

Just over 20 years ago, after a rather unconvincing time spent selling furniture, this gentle dreamer, today aged 40, decided to devote himself entirely to animals. And he created a kind of paradise for domestic animals, in a place with the predestined name of "Noé" (Noah), near Toulouse. Horses, cows, sheep, pigs, donkeys, etc. would live there, gambolling about, without being destined to finish their lives in the pot.

But even if it is large, a domain has its limits and cannot go on being extended for ever. It is not known how Joseph and his wife Régine came to envisage the creation of smaller breeds of animals, of miniaturising the species around us. He is very discreet on this matter.

Is it the same idea as the one that led horticulturalists in the Far East, several centuries ago, to create those miniature trees which today go by the name of Bonsai? Is it a vaguer, more human feeling which made him reduce them to the size of toy animals children are so fond of? Just imagine holding a donkey, a horse or a sheep on your knees or in your arms! Is he an isolated researcher, or a self-taught geneticist? After all, Mendel was just a slightly crazy monk!

Yet there is no mystery about it. The animals are well and truly there in Noé's domain and one is amazed in this Lilliputian world. "Achoua", a two years old and a fall-grown horse. Yet he is barely 50 centimetres tall at the withers and weighs 45 kilos. "Agathe", the goat, is 4 years



Joseph Moretto with one of his 'miniature' horses (photo: Polinet/Sygma)

old and weighs no more than 15 kilos for her 25 centimetres. The donkey comes somewhere between the two and the pigs are the size of our small dogs. More than four hundred of these reduced, little creatures live freely all together in this animal paradise.

Some people call him mad and say he is like Hitler. But, for all that, news of his achievements has crossed the oceans. There is no lack of breeders, biologists, geneticists or simple visitors to go to "Noé" and see for themselves the reality of this undrinkable, inconceivable miniaturization, which has gained Joseph

Moretto a place in the "Guinness Book of Records."

What is the mystery? What is the secret? But there is a mystery or a secret? Joseph Moretto denies it and claims that he is not a scientist and that there is nothing to understand. From the beginning of his experiment, he has simply taken the smallest subjects and cleverly crossed them "with a lot of patience and with the wisdom of the ancients."

And he asserts: "The smaller the animals, the more crafty and affectionate they are. At birth, they are frail but they become tougher and tougher

and have a lifespan twice as long as that of their big brothers, while having the same brain and the same heart muscles. Moreover, they are cared for and do not work."

But if you would like to have such an unusual pet, do not think that he sells just any animal to just anybody at any price. He first makes an enquiry to see if the animal and its future owner get on well. He only makes up his mind after that as to whether he will separate, not without some heartbreak, with one of his "morettinos" — L'Actualité en France.

King condemns Israeli violence

(Continued from page 1)

by Jewish settlers saying they were "extremists who concentrate only on themselves and their religious fervour."

"Once again Jerusalem will be portrayed as a violent city and this will harm tourism, scare away potential investors and dissuade Soviet immigrants from choosing Jerusalem as their home," spokeswoman Bonnie Boxer quoted him as saying.

Kollek has estimated that some 2,000 Soviet immigrants have settled in Jerusalem and Israeli officials have estimated that over half a million Soviet Jews were expected to immigrate to Israel in the next three years. Kollek's remarks came after he senators, led by Senate Republican leader Robert Dole, voiced their concern over the events surrounding the Jewish settlement, including Thursday's

violence.

Meanwhile, some 50 Christian and Muslim Palestinians demonstrated outside the 72-room complex located in the heart of the Christian neighbourhood.

While armed border police and a contingent from a special police squad guarded the building, the protesters chanted "There is no place for settlers in the Holy City," reporters said.

Jonathan Kuttab, a prominent Christian Palestinian lawyer, said the Jewish settlement represented a "systematic effort by Israel to Judaize the entire town."

Israeli legislator Yossi Sarid of the left-wing Citizens' Rights Movement joined the protesters in front of the complex and demanded that the settlers vacate the premises.

"I came here to say that many Jews in Israel do not accept settling here. It's a provocation. We don't accept it, and it should be

removed," he said.

The U.S. State Department urged adherents of the Jewish Muslim and Christian faiths Friday to exercise "mutual toleration" in Jerusalem and to refrain from "provocative actions" there.

Deputy spokesman Richard Boucher said: "Jerusalem holds great significance for Muslims, Jews and Christians."

"And we think all parties are well advised to demonstrate mutual toleration and to refrain from provocative actions," he said.

Boucher said that the State Department's declaration was not aimed at any specific action but is general advice that "would apply to actions by any side."

He noted that the courts in Israel have ruled that the property belongs to the Greek Orthodox Church and that the Jewish families should leave. The decision is under appeal.

Palestinians urge U.S. to exert influence

(Continued from page 1)

ground leadership of a 28-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation.

A U.S. official told Reuters that no PFLP backers were invited to the meeting, but did not say why.

The Damascus-based PFLP has rejected the U.S. plan for the Israeli-Palestinian talks and said it would not attend the talks in the occupied territories. But the PFLP appeared to

moderate its stand last month, saying preliminary talks could go ahead if the Arab delegation was approved by the PLO.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, meanwhile, a Palestinian accused of collaborating with Israeli authorities died overnight of beating injuries suffered earlier in the week, hospital officials said.

They said Faud Daud Timraz, 30, had been admitted to Shifa Hospital in serious condition on April 9 after he was beaten by masked assailants.

Reporters said Timraz was a suspected collaborator.

In Gaza City, soldiers ordered the central market shut and imposed a curfew after Palestinian students blocked the main Omar Al Mukhtar street with burning tyres and clashed with Israeli troops, reports said.

They said at least six persons were wounded during scattered clashes throughout the occupied Gaza Strip, including a nine-year-old boy from the Jabalya refugee camp who was hit in the right knee by army gunfire.

to pay in terms of Russia's dealings with the West."

Hurd, who spoke in an interview with Press Association, Britain's domestic news agency, did not elaborate on what the penalty would be.

Pope John Paul Saturday met unexpectedly with Vadim Zagladin, a top Gorbachev aide, but Vatican officials declined to say what was discussed.

The pontiff sent an Easter telegram to Cardinal Vincentas Skadkevicius of Lithuania.

French pressure

(Continued from page 1)

The militia chiefdom also has invited Hrawi's government, based outside the Christian enclave, to take over government installations in his areas of influence.

Ibrahim also met former president Charles Hilaire at the patriarch's seat in Bkiri.

Hilaire, who met Aoun Friday, said he was trying to persuade the general and Geagea to send representatives for face-to-face talks in Bkiri.

By Stan Yarbro
The Associated Press

ENVIGADO, Colombia — Pablo Escobar, the leader of the Medellín cartel, was born in this city. Residents say his money turned it into a haven for the rich by day, but made the city police into killers by night.

"If Envigado is Colombia's first city in quality of life, it is also the first in the quality of death," a former police official told a local newspaper.

This city of 80,000 is in north-western Colombia, 6.5 kilometres south of Medellín, the city from which Colombia's largest cocaine gang takes its name.

The police force, known as the department of security and control, has been trying to "clean" Envigado's streets of beggars, thieves and people who smoked basuko, a cocaine base. But the government says the anti-crime campaign has been more like a reign of terror.

On March 28, President Virgilio Barco's government ordered the civilian police force disbanded. The army has detained 19 of 27 former city officers. Ten are charged with torturing and murdering people on the orders of the Medellín cartel. One is accused of organising death squads for the drug cartel.

Escobar's hometown was placed under martial law and an army colonel was given power to arrest any official attempting to

Greek conservative leader is a tough lawyer who led party to victory

ATHENS (R) — Greek conservative party leader Constantine Mitsotakis, who took over as prime minister this week, promises to open full diplomatic relations with Israel and sign a new agreement to keep U.S. bases in Greece.

Mitsotakis's New Democracy Party won 150 seats in the 300-member parliament in Sunday elections, and Monday he secured the support of a single centrist deputy for a 151-seat majority.

The tough lawyer from Crete secured a mandate from President Christos Sartzetakis Tuesday to form a government and his cabinet was sworn in Wednesday.

Mitsotakis, 71, pushed his New Democracy Party toward the political centre after becoming leader in 1984.

It was his fourth campaign against his bitter personal foe, Socialist Party leader Andreas Papandreu, and capped years of work to return New Democracy to power.

New Democracy last governed in 1981. It joined coalitions with limited powers after elections last June and November.

Mitsotakis has said he would quickly grant full diplomatic relations to Israel and sign a new accord on U.S. bases.

Papandreu's Socialists terminated the American-Greek bases accord in December 1988 and the Americans had until November 1990 to leave unless a new deal was signed.

Greece is the only European Community (EC) country which does not have full relations with

Israel. At present Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation have equal status with diplomatic missions in Athens, but not embassies.

Mitsotakis said he would tackle heavy state deficits with budget cuts, including an immediate reduction of 300 to 400 billion drachmas (\$1.8 to 2.5 billion).

The budget deficit in 1989 reached two trillion drachmas (\$12.5 billion), or 22 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), Greece's total output of goods and services.

Mitsotakis also plans to raise revenues by selling state industries and launching an investment programme.

He has been known for years as the only man who can stand up to Papandreu, a brilliant orator, in parliamentary debates.

But he has been accused of using strong-arm tactics to unify New Democracy, which was in disarray when he took over after the party was defeated by the Socialists in 1981.

Determined to break the Socialists' eight-year grip on power, he stunned many supporters after inconclusive elections to Joce by forging an unprecedented coalition government with his one-time bitter foes in a Communist-led alliance.

His gamble that the right-left coalition, which ordered Papandreu to stand trial on corruption charges, would win him a majority but not Papandreu personally, largely to confront a severe economic crisis.

The all-party government was unable to overcome deep differ-



Constantine Mitsotakis

ences. Mitsotakis prompted its collapse, saying: "Greece must have a strong single-party government to face this crisis, otherwise there will be chaos."

Born to a prominent political family, he joined resistance forces on his home island of Crete in World War II and fought the occupying Germans, who twice

sentenced him to death. During a military dictatorship in Greece between 1967-74, he lived in exile in Paris and openly criticised the junta.

First elected to parliament in 1946, he was re-elected nine times under the liberal and centre union banners and appointed finance minister at the age of 33.

Millionaire-haven hotel houses Monaco's three-star restaurant

By Penelope Hocking-Vigie
Renter

MONACO — Monaco's "Louis XV" restaurant, the latest arrival in the world of top French gastronomy, is reserved for those who can indulge their passion for good food and wine at any price.

The restaurant, which last month won the coveted three-star award from the authoritative Michelin Food Guide, is situated in the elegant Hotel de Paris, next to the principality's famous casino.

Its quiet opulence is spectacular but intimate. Gilded mirrors reflect the chandeliers, rococo-style paintings, vermeil cutlery and fine porcelain.

The prices are scaled accordingly. An average bill is between 700 (\$123) and 1,000 francs (\$175) per person, without wine. "This is amply justified by the quality of the ingredients and the beauty of the surroundings," says the 33-year-old French chef Alain Ducasse.

The Hotel de Paris has been a haven for millionaires, heads of state and film celebrities since it was built in 1863. The "Louis XV" was opened three years ago to give the hotel a restaurant worthy of its glittering past.

Ducasse is today considered by gastronomic experts to be among the world's 10 best, who dub him "the other prince of Monaco,"

after the ruling Prince Rainier.

Frank Sinatra, Robert Mitchum, Jerry Lewis, Bill Cosby and Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko are among those who come to Savour Ducasse's specialties — frog's legs in a delicate spring soup topped with wild mushrooms, or scallops grilled over an open fire and covered in thick slices of rare black truffle.

Ducasse was given complete freedom to design the kitchens, which are a cross between tradition and the latest technology. From his office closed-circuit cameras allow him to zoom in on any section and check the progress of his latest creations. "Through most of the time I'm in the kitchens myself," he says.

He also has the run of one of the best cellars in the world. The hotel sits on a priceless treasure of rare vintages, champagnes and cognacs, some over 170 years old. A collection of more than 250,000 bottles oozes in a kilometre of cellars backed out of underlying rock.

Neon lighting is banned, though modern equipment keeps the temperature and humidity constant, and a computer helps keep track of the turnover, which includes 110,000 bottles of the best champagne each year.

The sleek, dust-covered bottles seem to hold their own secrets. Those lucky enough to tour the cellars find themselves talking

in whispers.

"Looking after such wines is like religion," says head waiter Jean-Pierre Rous as he carefully extinguishes the small light-bulb in each wine before moving on to the next.

During World War II, when German troops occupied Monaco, a large part of the cellar narrowly escaped being converted into fuel, as happened in the cognac region of France. A quick-thinking cellarman camouflaged the entrance with racks of empty bottles.

In 1976, Rainier and his late wife, the former American film star Grace Kelly, celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary in the cellars with a small party of close friends.

Among the oldest "residents" are four bottles of cognac dated 1811, from a stock marked for the king of Rome, Napoleon's baby soo.

Two bottles of the same vintage were opened for special guests — former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, a regular visitor to the hotel, and the late Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis.

Bot Amateurs can console themselves with some famous red wines, such as a 1945-vintage Chateau Latour, worth 7,000 francs (\$1,200) a bottle. Thirty-two bottles were drunk recently at a private party.

"Some clients send us bookings by telex six months ahead," says Rous. "We set aside the wine they have chosen and test it regularly to make sure it is in prime condition when they arrive."

"But the real connoisseurs are becoming fewer. Ofte personalities just want the most expensive, to show they can afford it. A wine-waiter has to be a bit of a psychologist."

With dozens of years of experience behind him, Rous regrets that wine-waiters and cellar-men today have less physical contact with their subject and a diminished olfactory memory.

"Until 50 years ago, the wine arrived in casks, and was bottled here in the cellars," he says. "The cellar-men got to know scores of wines, just from their bouquet. Now it all arrives in bottles."

Rous and Ducasse work closely together, Rous tasting each of the chef's new dishes in order to advise clients which wines will best enhance them.

The hotel's prestige also serves as a lure to bring the world's richest gamblers to the casino. These "high-rollers," as they are known in gambling jargon, are invited for weekends free of charge, in the hope that they will leave a good part of their fortune at the roulette or craps tables.

Bot only about 180 "high-rollers" are so honoured, says Rous.

Have police gone too far in drug trafficker's hometown?

By Stan Yarbro
The Associated Press

ENVIGADO, Colombia — Pablo Escobar, the leader of the Medellín cartel, was born in this city. Residents say his money turned it into a haven for the rich by day, but made the city police into killers by night.

"If Envigado is Colombia's first city in quality of life, it is also the first in the quality of death," a former police official told a local newspaper.

This city of 80,000 is in north-western Colombia, 6.5 kilometres south of Medellín, the city from which Colombia's largest cocaine gang takes its name.

The police force, known as the department of security and control, has been trying to "clean" Envigado's streets of beggars, thieves and people who smoked basuko, a cocaine base. But the government says the anti-crime campaign has been more like a reign of terror.

On March 28, President Virgilio Barco's government ordered the civilian police force disbanded. The army has detained 19 of 27 former city officers. Ten are charged with torturing and murdering people on the orders of the Medellín cartel. One is accused of organising death squads for the drug cartel.

impede investigations into the actions of the department of security and control (DSC).

After the army took over, residents who had been terrorised into silence started making their way to the army brigades to denounce the killings of family members.

"They focused on murdering and torturing street people," Miguel Moreno, an unemployed resident, told the Associated Press two days after the force was

at a sidewalk cafe and told how the DSC had shot him in the back and crippled him for life.

He said that eight months ago he and a group of friends were standing on a street and watching a soccer game on a television inside a store window. Half way through the game, a DSC patrol, four men and a woman, came around the corner.

"When we saw them, we began to run. That's when they shot me," he said. "They put me in

keep the streets of Envigado drug free, if not violence free.

"They don't want to see a poor person even thinking about smoking basuko on the street," he said.

Envigado does seem to have fewer homeless people wandering the streets than other Colombian towns. Its downtown area is crowded with small shops and restaurants. Most of the wealth seems to have poured into high-rise condominium construction in the town's posh neighbourhoods.

On a recent weekend, expensive cars with bullet-proof windows could be seen on the city's streets, while heavily armed men stood guard outside homes.

"It is said the drug traffickers have invested in Envigado and made life better for the people here. But at the same time they send the police out to kill the poorest," Jimenez said.

Envigado's mayor-elect, Jose Mario Rodriguez, wouldn't comment on the alleged killings or the charges against the former security officers, but he said the army had overreacted to the alleged abuses.

"We cannot see the justification of the military presence, but we will cooperate with the officials," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez, a member of the ruling Liberal Party, takes office on Aug. 1, but will have no powers if martial law is still in effect.

He said he was sure the army

would leave as soon as they understood what he called the peaceful nature of Envigado's officials and residents.

Rodriguez also said Envigado's problems had been blown out of proportion. "I think people are exaggerating because they envy Envigado's wealth and its excellent administration," Rodriguez said.

The city is the only one in Colombia with unemployment benefits, he said, adding that the money came, not from drug traffickers, but from a high tax base and thriving industries such as textiles and chemicals.

"People associate the town with Pablo Escobar because he was born here, but I for one have never met the man," he said.

A former DSC officer, who would give his name only as Freddy, said that the Envigado's problem was crime by people like Jimenez who smoke basuko.

"The department has done a good job here," he said while playing cards with several men at an Envigado cafe. "In 1989, we detained 900 people. The national police didn't take in five per cent of the figure," he said.

Freddy predicted that the DSC would be back in business soon despite the presidential decree dismantling it and other civilian forces in Medellín and surrounding cities.

"The government needs us. They just don't realise how badly," he said.

Lithuania defiant against threat

(Continued from page 1)

not be repealed, he suggested at it might be suspended temporarily, if necessary to persuade Gorbachev to begin negotiating.

In an interview with the U.S. television network CBS, Landberg said the republic would "endure despite any hardships imposed by Moscow."

"We have... a will to be a free people," he said. "We have a nation and we must survive." U.S. President George Bush and British Prime Minister Mar-

garet Thatcher urged Gorbachev to drop the threat and open talks with Lithuania.

"Now is no time for escalation," Bush said after he and Thatcher met for talks in Hamilton, Bermuda. "It is time for talk."

Said Thatcher, "I abide by the statement the president just made."

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said Saturday that if Moscow uses coercion instead of dialogue to keep Lithuania in its fold, "there will be a penalty

to pay in terms of Russia's dealings with the West."

Hurd, who spoke in an interview with Press Association, Britain's domestic news agency, did not elaborate on what the penalty would be.

Pope John Paul Saturday met unexpectedly with Vadim Zagladin, a top Gorbachev aide, but Vatican officials declined to say what was discussed.

The pontiff sent an Easter telegram to Cardinal Vincentas Skadkevicius of Lithuania.

President considering special session soon

OPEC countries in contact to resolve oil market crisis

QUITO, Ecuador (Agencies) — The 13 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) oil cartel are making efforts to resolve the current crisis in world oil markets, a senior Ecuadorian energy official said Friday.

"Contacts are taking place at ministerial level to see what is the best action at this time, but still there is nothing concrete, nothing has been decided yet," said the government official, who asked not to be identified.

The current worldwide oil glut has led to a sharp drop in crude prices. West Texas intermediate, the benchmark U.S. crude, fell 28 cents to \$17.78 a barrel Thursday, down from nearly \$23 a barrel at the beginning of the year. The markets were closed Friday.

"The situation of oil production in the Gulf countries is being analysed especially," the Ecuadorian official was quoted by Reuters as saying.

International oil industry sources say members of OPEC including Iraq, Iran, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia might be exceeding their quota limits, flooding an already oversupplied market.

On Thursday, Ecuador's Deputy Energy Minister Carlos Izurieta said the oversupply of crude and depressed oil prices were delaying the shipment of the country's crude by long-term buyers.

The Ecuadorian official said OPEC nations had considered moving up a regular conference scheduled for May or calling a meeting of the OPEC monitoring committee but felt concrete proposals would have to be presented beforehand to avoid raising expectations.

Izurieta said an urgent meeting of OPEC at a time when some members might be producing above their quotas could harm the unity of the organisation.

He said OPEC pumped an average 24 million barrels of crude per day in March, two million barrels above the daily quota.

Special session

The current president of OPEC has been holding consultations over the past 48 hours in view of calling a special meeting before their scheduled gathering in May, informed sources quoted by the AP said Friday.

No date or place was set for such a meeting, which would be aimed at finding ways to stop the fall in the price of crude oil.

The official Algerian News Agency said the meeting could either be a gathering of eight ministers of OPEC's surveillance committee or an extraordinary conference.

On Thursday, OPEC President Sadok Boussena declared that the partners had made a "clear commitment" to defend the reference price of \$18 a barrel.

In March in Vienna, the member nations of OPEC agreed again to limit their production to 22 million barrels a day (BPD) in the second trimester to maintain the \$18 rate.

Iraqi position

Iraq's oil minister was quoted Saturday as saying his country was against cancelling OPEC's quota system.

Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi, in an interview with the Arabic-language Kuwaiti daily Al Qabas, said the drop in oil prices since the start of the year of around \$2.5 per barrel, showed the negative impact of OPEC over-production.

Chalabi said demand for OPEC oil was considerably lower than OPEC members' production

capacity. "Desired stability in the market was causing concern which requires continued programming of production by members of OPEC in the coming period so that OPEC restores its capacity to consolidate this stability," he added.

"The level of demand for OPEC oil is considerably less than the available production capacity of the organisation despite the differences in production capacity between member states."

Chalabi said "the deterioration in official prices of oil in the market since the first week of this year until now, and which has exceeded \$2.5 per barrel, shows clearly the negative impact of its production capacity on price levels."

"Oil price drop could increase in seasons that witness a decrease in the level of demand on OPEC oil because of seasonal factors."

"This increases the necessity of abiding by the quotas set, and shows without doubt the importance of limiting and programming production to balance supply and demand, especially that real average price of OPEC's basket are much lower than the \$8 per barrel approved in December 1986."

"For these reasons we do not support the position that calls for cancelling the quota system in OPEC and leaving the matter of setting levels of production for every member country because this will intensify the competition between OPEC countries... and will put increasing pressures on prices and as a consequence increase the instability of the market... a matter that is against the aims of producers and consumers alike."

"The near consensus of ACC (the Arab Cooperation Council of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt and North Yemen) parties in the oil market

is that the level of \$8 per barrel as a marker for OPEC's oil basket was a realistic and acceptable level allowing the basis of a price development in the future," Chalabi said.

"Maintaining the \$18 price in the last period up until now was to encourage demand and decrease the pressure of the available production capacity of some member," he said.

"This has led to the depreciation in the real value of this price (\$18) which probably means the price is now around \$15 in the dollar rate of December 1986, because of inflation and the depreciation in the dollar's value," he said.

Jakarta appeals to OPEC

Indonesian Mines and Energy Minister Gijunjar Kartasasmita Saturday called on OPEC members to abide by their production quotas to prevent fluctuation in oil prices on the world market.

Gijunjar said that the current production of the 13-member cartel has reached at least 20.4 million BPD, about one million barrels more than their current production ceiling.

"This situation should not happen if some members of OPEC abide by their quotas," he said. Gijunjar said a formal appeal would be soon conveyed to alleged violators.

Omani paper worried

An Omani newspaper expressed concern Saturday at instability in world oil markets and cautioned against overproduction.

"This instability is a cause for concern to all oil-producing states, whether OPEC or non-OPEC members," the Oman Daily said in an editorial.

Boeing reaches agreement with Japanese on new jet

LOS ANGELES (R) — Boeing Company, the world's largest aircraft producer, said Friday that it would give three Japanese subcontractors a major role in building its proposed 767-X wide-body jet, but it did not give them an equity stake in the project as had been expected.

Boeing's original plan to give the subcontractors an equity stake of 20 to 25 per cent had sparked criticism from congressmen and others who feared the impact of a growing Japanese interest in aircraft building.

The company said Friday that it had reached a tentative agreement under which three of Japan's industrial giants would provide 15 to 20 per cent of the new plane's fuselage.

The companies are Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd and Fuji Heavy Industries, which have been subcontractors for Boeing for 20 years.

The 767-X, which will be called the 777 as soon as airlines place their first orders, will seat 350 to 370 passengers and will feature a new wing, wider fuselage and high-efficiency turbofan engines. It will be bigger than the 767 but smaller than the four-engine 747 jumbo jet.

Critics contend that the Japanese companies have been seeking a partnership only to gain experience so they can one day seek to dominate an industry that is now 80 per cent controlled by U.S. producers. Boeing alone has an estimated 60 per cent of the market for big commercial jetliners.

Under the agreement, the Japanese companies will have a

role in building the fuselage for the plane but will not be involved in the more important area of wing construction.

"The key technology is in the wing construction, and Boeing was not about to give that away," said Howard Rubel of the Brokerage C.J. Lawrence.

Boeing hopes to roll the first of the 777s off the assembly line by 1995 if the plane is formally launched.

The plane faces stiff competition because it will compete directly with two planes already in the works by its two biggest rivals, McDonnell Douglas Corp of St. Louis and Airbus Industrie of Europe.

The 777 will compete with Douglas' MD-11 tri-jet and the Airbus A330 and A340. Over 300 firm orders already have been placed for those models, putting Boeing in the position of having to catch up.

Boeing previously said Japanese partners could help defray the \$3 billion cost of bringing the 777 from the drawing board to the runway and attract Japanese airlines customers.

Airline stock analysts said the Japanese would now likely look for agreements with Boeing's competitors.

"If the Japanese don't form some kind of partnership with Boeing then they will go to Airbus Industrie and McDonnell," said Bill Whitlow, analyst with Dain Bosworth.

They also said that concerns about Japanese involvement had been overblown.

"Critics have been overreacting on the technology transfer issue," Rubel said.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY APRIL 15, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A wonderful day to use an opportunity now present to get busy and put your ideas to others able to help make them a success. Cooperation is available from least expected places.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Consider desires of family and do for them what they wish in the morning but after that time you can delve into ways to increase skills at your talent.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20) Consider now if you are able to gather the various loose ends of your daily duties together and then you will be able to make real progress in your results.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Many items connected with your practical affairs require your attention after which you will be able to better handle neighbourhood conditions.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) A multitude of personal things can be done to make your health and appearance heightened, then you can get into more mundane matters.

LEO (July 22 to August 21) Many behind the scenes tasks require your undivided attention before you get in touch with friends to let them know when you can make plans to see them.

VIRGO (August 22 to September 22) Whatever your hopes and

wishes are, it is necessary you look at them from a less casual angle, then you can devise the means by which to obtain them.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Many outside chores demand your morning attention so get them done as soon as you can for then you are able to make arrangements to gain your personal wishes.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A day to seriously consider the wishes of one who is in an influential position and do what you can to get this person's support and approval.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You have an understanding that is a little different than your usual activity and would be full data you want.

CAPIRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Consider well the various promises you have made and be sure you either carry them out carefully or get revision with your associates.

AQUARIUS (January 21 to February 19) Consider thoughtfully what others expect of you in the way of backing up their plans and go as far as you possibly can to do just that.

PISCES (February 20 to March 20) Find some way to be more effective in whatever activities you find yourself committed to perform and don't do any job in a shoddy manner.

THE Daily Crossword by Richard Thomas

ACROSS
1 US playwright
6 Zinger
10 Servants
14 Sphere
15 Gen. Bradley
16 Melody
17 Part of film (with "The")
20 Units of mass
21 Even
22 Venetian
23 Speed
24 Chiang's nemesis
25 Part of some addresses
28 Connections
33 "... has — and hungry look"
34 Golf club
35 Mine car
36 Control knob
37 Sights
38 In good shape
39 Geom. fig.
40 Money for writers
41 Gem portion
42 Place in power
44 Upright
45 Zoo beast
46 Strokes
47 Joyfully
48 Ploy
51 Some soil
52 Dallas school
53 Family group
54 Timid one
56 Nolan or Robert
57 "Milked" character
58 Curse
DOWN
1 Host
2 Che
3 Quaver member
4 Wapiti
5 Fear e.g.
6 Indicated
7 Included with
8 Batter
9 Robbers
10 Krishna
11 Cleveland's lake
12 Lehr part
13 Annie Oakley
14 Feudal land
15 Jog
16 Vitality
17 Titan and Triton
18 Key personnel
19 Foreign
20 Undergo chemical change
21 Auto type
22 Sparta's rival
23 Fad
24 Legends
25 Silvery fish
26 Pile
27 Pipe valve
41 — up!
42 Azeat
43 Tiller
44 Music maker
45 Autocrat
46 Wrong
47 Soft drink
48 Disney film
51 Bedlands' loc.
52 Swing around
53 Tableland
54 Addict
56 Holiday role
57 Intimidate

Nuclear plant builder turns into repairman

DAMPIERRE-EN-BURLY, France (R) — France, the world's top builder of nuclear power plants, is having to turn repairman because nobody wants to buy reactors any more.

Over the last 20 years France's Framatome group has built 50 reactors scattered throughout the French countryside. They drive the most ambitious nuclear programme in the world and supply the bulk of French energy.

But a huge question mark has hung over nuclear power and the potential threat it poses to civilisation since the 1986 Chernobyl disaster in the Soviet Union when a reactor exploded killing 31 people and sending a radiation cloud across Europe.

Demand for new plants has shrivelled and nuclear development in many countries has slowed, including France, where nuclear power provides 70 per cent of the country's energy needs and its still viewed with a relatively keen eye by the public.

"There's been a big drop in worldwide demand for new plants," said Yannick le Corre, head of nuclear development at Framatome, which has also built six plants abroad.

To counteract this, Framatome is promoting itself as an international repairman for the planet's cracked and worn-out atomic power stations.

"We have to start developing other areas, and services and maintenance is a strong new field opening up," he told Reuters.

A government-commissioned report made public in March attacked France's nuclear policy, saying energy needs for the next decade and beyond had been massively over-estimated.

The report questioned the very future of Framatome, saying the group, currently looking at a shrinking order book and a drop in profits, had an even bleaker future. "Framatome faces at near complete halt in new orders," the report said.

Later this month Framatome,

45 per cent state-owned, is expected to announce a fall in 1989 profits to one billion francs (\$178 million) from 1.07 billion francs (\$190 million).

In March Framatome started a repair job for state-owned power supplier Electricite de France (EDF) which it hopes could help it broaden its career.

The work involved a transplant operation on the three powerful steam generators in a reactor at the plant at Dampierre, in the heart of lush green countryside bordering the Loire River to the southwest of Paris.

The 30-metre high, 300-tonne generators provide energy to drive the turbines that produce electricity, but authorities had discovered worrying cracks in them which could eventually leak radiation into the environment.

The generators, installed 10 years ago when the plant opened, were closed down, decontaminated and uprooted. New shiny black replacements were brought in and two of them have been heaved into place in a delicate operation which requires accuracy to within a millimetre.

Disposal problems

One of the main headaches for Framatome, and a potential target for ecologists' anger, is how to dispose of the old carcasses, radioactive for at least another 20 years. For the moment they have been sealed and stored in a warehouse in a controlled zone next to the plant.

The whole operation cost EDF 600 million francs (\$107 million). Framatome estimates another 24 of France's nuclear plants will need the same treatment over coming years.

"The cost is going to be huge," said Le Corre.

The group also plans to start competing for repair projects abroad. Le Corre thinks around 30 generators in Europe will need replacing in the next 15 to 20 years.

Israeli to face fraud charges in U.S.

NEW YORK (AP) — An Israeli indicted in the United States and his home country for the same crime will be spending the weekend in federal custody in the Hartford area after volunteering to be tried in Connecticut, federal officials said.

Samuel Dagan appeared briefly Friday before U.S. Magistrate Allyne Ross at Brooklyn Federal Court and was then transported to Hartford to face charges of defrauding two Connecticut banks out of \$6.1 million, said U.S. Attorney Stanley A. Twardy, Jr.

"He waived his right to extradition and is en route to Connecticut," Twardy said late Friday night. "He'll be spending the weekend in the custody of the U.S. marshals, in the Hartford area."

His public defender, Lori Levinson, said during Friday's proceedings that her client needed medical care because he recently underwent surgery and was on medication. She did not provide any other details of the defendant's conditions.

Dagan was scheduled to appear Monday before a federal magistrate in Hartford.

The former West Hartford resident agreed to return to the United States from Israel to be tried on charges of defrauding the Connecticut Bank and Trust Company and the Connecticut Savings Bank out of \$6.1 million in 1987.

Dagan is the first Israeli national to be prosecuted by his country for alleged crimes he committed in the U.S., federal officials said. His wife, Miriam K. Dagan, was also charged in a federal indictment but chose to remain in Israel and Twardy said he did not expect Israeli authorities to prosecute her.

"He was the brains behind the scheme," Twardy said.

The couple allegedly participated in a scheme involving accounts they had at both banks for local businesses they operated, according to the indictment.

The alleged scheme involved the submission of phony invoices to the banks which enabled the couple to extend their credit line to \$4.1 million, money authorities said the Dagens pocketed.

The couple then floated checks between the two banks and withdrew the money before their checks cleared, giving them an additional \$2 million, authorities charged.

Before fleeing the country in March 1988, the Dagens were well-known business owners and prominent members of West Hartford's Jewish community.



The McDonald's fast food chain has come under fire for its high fat content in its hamburgers and French fries (file photo)

McDonald's food under heavy fire in fat attack

WASHINGTON (R) — The big Mac is under attack. McDonald's Corp, the world's largest fast food company, should be sitting pretty with yearly sales of more than \$17 billion and about five billion burgers.

Instead, full page advertisements in newspapers across the United States are accusing the fast food giant — whose "big Mac attack" slogan touts its highly popular double decker burger — of contributing to "the poisoning of America."

"McDonald's, your hamburgers have too much fat," the advertisements charge in large black type.

"We are calling on McDonald's and all fast food restaurants to reduce the fat content of their hamburger meat by 10 per cent as their contribution toward lowering cholesterol levels for Americans," the captions say.

The advertisements were placed by Phil Sokolof, an Omaha businessman and multimillionaire who has been crusading for a healthier American diet since 1985.

Sokolof, who suffered a heart attack 23 years ago, has halved his cholesterol count from 300 and has spent about

\$2.5 million of his own money over the past five years on promoting cholesterol testing and heart-healthy foods.

He insists his latest campaign is not directed at McDonald's alone, "but McDonald's is the leading purveyor of fat in the world. They serve 22 million people a day and the great percentage of their items contain saturated fat or cholesterol," Sokolof said in a telephone interview.

Growing medical evidence links a diet high in saturated fat and cholesterol to a greater risk of high blood pressure and heart attacks.

Sokolof is not alone in taking aim at fast food restaurants. This week a coalition of health organisations and scientists called on hamburger chains, including McDonald's and Burger King, to offer their patrons healthier food and stop cooking chips in a fat blend made with beef tallow, one of the most highly saturated of fats.

"We are troubled by many of your products, but especially by the unnecessary use of shortening made largely from beef fat," said a letter from groups including the American Heart Association, American Public Health Association and nutrition watchdog group Centre for Science in the Public

Interest (CSPI). Under pressure from CSPI, Hardee's and Arby's restaurants have already dropped beef tallow for their french fries.

McDonald's and Burger King have stopped frying their chicken, fish and pies in beef fat, but neither has yet yielded on the french fries front, arguing they don't taste as good when fried in vegetable oil.

Burger King also offers a grilled chicken sandwich while McDonald's has started selling salads, no-cholesterol no-fat apple-bran muffins, reduced-fat milkshakes, low-fat frozen yogurt and sorbets.

"These changes likely will reverberate throughout the industry, but fast food restaurants are still a long way from being health food joints," said CSPI Director Michael Jacobson.

"They still spend hundreds of millions of dollars to encourage kids to eat the foods they should not be eating. We will continue our campaign to encourage these companies to improve their products," he added.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"I didn't lose any weight this week. My crash diet crashed into a pizza."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DYNOS
RAHME
LAISOR
HEWPEN

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers Monday

Yesterday's Jumble: LOUSE WEIGH SYSTEM IGLIANA
Answer: Some guys are wise, and some are this — "WISE GUYS"



Swinging hard at the plate.



Catcher and pitcher talk over strategy.

Amman Little League starts 1990 season

By Rami G. Khouri
Jordan Times
baseball correspondent

AMMAN — With the unmistakable sounds of a crack of the bat, the muffled thump of a hard ball hitting the catcher's glove, and the roar of the crowd at every hit, baseball action returned to Jordan this week as the Amman Little League opened its 1990 season with a full schedule of 11 games.

At a brief opening ceremony Friday morning, Amman Little League President Mithkal Asfour exhorted the young players and their coaches and team mothers to do their best within the spirit of Little League baseball — to play hard, to learn, and, especially, to have fun.

Baseball Commissioner Maher Khalifeh took the opportunity to thank a range of people and institutions for their vital support in organising this baseball season. He expressed special thanks to Suhla Khalifeh, the members of the baseball committee and other

volunteers, and the three schools whose fields are used for practices and games — the American Community School, the Abdul Hamid Sharaf School and the Baptist School.

This year's baseball league comprises a total of 340 children between the ages of 5 and 18, playing on 23 teams divided into four divisions. After being played only by members of Jordan's expatriate community in the 1970s and early 80s, Little League baseball was organised as a public activity in 1984, open to all residents of Jordan. This year, well over 80 per cent of the participating children are Jordanians, and an increasing number of Jordanian parents are becoming involved as coaches.

American Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe "Fireball" Suddarth officially inaugurated the new season with his usual combination of deft rhetoric and athletics. After encouraging the young ball-players to appreciate baseball's special fusion of individual skills with team effort, Suddarth kicked

off the season with an impressive example of how to execute a knee-high fastball. Working from a full windup, Suddarth reached back and threw a perfect strike to a fully-suited catcher, and officially declared "play ball!" to the appreciation of the crowd.

As more children and parents participate, Little League baseball in Jordan has moved up to a new level of significance, due to two reasons. Last year, for the first time ever, Jordan sent a national team to the world Little League playoffs, participating with the European/Mediterranean division in West Germany. Baseball has also been designated as an Olympic sport, which is helping to promote the game throughout the world.

In both categories, Jordan can look forward to bright future prospects — if Saturday's T-ball performance by the 5 and 6-year-olds was anything to judge by. The five-T-ball teams in the league allow small children to learn some of the basic elements

of baseball, and Saturday's games showed that this year's crop of players certainly does not lack enthusiasm. This year's T-ball sponsors — Jordan Express, Datamini, Nashashibi-Ebbini, Agaba Shipping Co. and Istiklal Library — have become familiar names around the youngest baseball circuit in the country.

The next category of play is the coach pitch division, for 7-to-9-year-olds. The eight teams this year are sponsored by Arab Finance Corp., Intercontinental Hotel, AICI, Firelli, Comcent, National Steel Co., Epsom and Aramex.

The kid pitch category, for 10-12-year-olds, comprises six teams, sponsored by Jordan Worsted Mills, Mr. Chips, Marriott Hotel, Danish Dairy, NECC and Westinghouse.

The 13-18-year-olds play in the softball division, with four teams sponsored by Second Time Around, Volvo, Nadas and Qadoumi Agricultural Co.



Close play at third, but the runner was out.



The glory of a great hit: Rounding third base during a home run circuit.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMMAM HIRSH
1980 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

TOO EASY TO BE TOO CAREFUL

North-South vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ 10 8 2
♥ 10 6
♦ 5
♣ A Q 10 6 3 2

EAST
♠ A Q 7 5 4 3
♥ 10 4 2
♦ A K 10 9 7 3
♣ 10 8 6 5 7

SOUTH
♠ K J
♥ A K Q 7 5 3
♦ Q 4 2
♣ 9

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass Pass 2 ♠ 3 ♥
Pass 4 ♠ Pass 4 ♥
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠
There's such a thing as being too pessimistic. On this hand from the recent Fall North American Championships, South took a trifle too much care and paid a trifle too much. North-South reached a normal contract of four hearts. West led the king of diamonds and shifted to a spade. East rose with the ace and returned a spade in the hope that West could ruff, but that was not to be.

Had our dear Uncle Vanya, from the Old Country, been declarer, the hand would have been over in a

flash. Vanya, a simple soul, would have drawn trumps, run the jack of clubs and then repeated the club finesse. That would have brought in the contract with an overtrick.
When Canadians Joey Silver and Mark Molson were East and West respectively, they had the good fortune to play against an imaginative declarer. After winning the king of spades, South cashed a high trump and then thought it wise to ruff a diamond in dummy. Next came the ten of spades from the board and, when Silver played low, declarer triumphantly discarded his remaining diamond. That proved to be a fatal error.

Molson ruffed and exited with the king of clubs. Declarer took dummy's ace and tried to get to his hand with the jack of clubs. Silver ruffed for down one.
Declarer was a little unfortunate to have encountered such sterling defense. Had West routinely exited with a low club, declarer would have had no recourse but to run it to his jack, thereby allowing him to draw trumps to fulfill his contract.

Available is a two-for-one package of DOUBLES booklets. For your copies send \$3 to "GOREN DOUBLES," care this newspaper, P.O. Box 4426, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4426. Make checks payable to "Newspaperbooks."

AMMAN LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

Results of games played Friday, April 13, 1990

COACH PITCH DIVISION

Arab Finance	10	Intercontinental	12
AICI	24	Firelli	9
Comcent	7	National Steel	21
Epsom	10	Aramex	2

KID PITCH DIVISION

Jordan Worsted Mills	8	Mr Chips	5
Danish Dairy	10	Marriott Hotel	7
NECC	16	Westinghouse	5

SOFTBALL DIVISION

Nadas	9	Second Time Around	5
Volvo	7	Qadoumi Agricultural	6

Jordan Times Tel. 667171

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Krickstein shocks Lendl

TOKYO (AP) — Fourth-seed Aarou Krickstein Saturday shocked an erratic Ivan Lendl, the top seed, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4 to reach the men's singles finals in the \$1.15 million Japan Open tennis tournament.

Krickstein, of the United States, faces defending champion Stefan Edberg, the no. 2 seed from Sweden, who beat third-seeded American Brad Gilbert 6-1, 7-6 (7-5) in the other semifinal match on the hard courts of the Ariake Colossium later Saturday.

Lendl, the world's top-ranked player, had 18 aces but lost to Krickstein for the first time in five straight matches.

"He played very well and he served extremely well," Lendl said of Krickstein after the match. "I made a lot of errors and when I had the chances I just threw them away. I hadn't been doing any training and I was basically looking forward to the grass and getting ready for Wimbledon."

"I've played well here and against Stefan it should be a good, close and tough match," Krickstein said of the final. "I'll have to play my best to win. I have won three of our four matches."

Krickstein, who had six aces, hit 61.8 per cent of his first serves against Lendl's 47 per cent.

"I think I have improved my serve over the last few weeks," Krickstein told reporters. "I knew if I served well here I had a chance to win."

Krickstein kept the first game of the first set without losing a point and broke the next game after the two players exchanged ground strokes from the baseline.

Lendl fired two aces in the second set that won love-games in the first and third games before breaking the 12th game.

In the third set, Krickstein broke twice and Lendl once.

Lendl blew the break point in the 10th game when he netted a backhand. After four deuces, Lendl failed a serve-retain and hit a forehand long to wrap up the 2 hours, 15 minute game.

In the other men's match, Edberg broke twice in taking the first set. Edberg broke once and Gilbert twice in the second set.

In the tie-break, Gilbert led 4-0 but Edberg gained back four straight points to even the score. Gilbert hit a forehand long, netted a shot and hit a passing shot wide before Edberg fired a passing winner.

Edberg said he won because he got off to a good start and played a nearly perfect first set.

But he added: "I got a bit impatient in the second set and lost some crispness. I played a good tiebreaker from 0-4 and I was pleased to win the two sets."

LOST PASSPORT

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Toyota, Lancia battle to lead Safari Rally

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Bjorn Waldegaard of Sweden advanced his lead in the Marlboro Safari Rally as the Japanese-made Toyotas and Italian-made Lancias Saturday battled for the top position in a diminishing pack struggling through quagmired roads and flooded plains.

Only 17 of the 58 starters who roared off from Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, Thursday began the third leg in the early hours of Saturday morning.

Breakdowns and axle-deep muddied tracks forced 33 vehicles out of the first leg through southern Kenya Friday.

Another seven vehicles failed to make it back to Nairobi Friday.

One of three Lancia integrals dropped out six hours into the third day of the five-day race Saturday.

The cars left Nairobi before sunrise and Waldegaard's Toyota Celica GT4 was the only vehicle that did not get bogged down in a muddy stretch outside Nairobi, officials said.

But 435.45 kilometres (269.9 miles) through volcanic ashes in the Rift Valley, the Lancia driven by Allesandro Florio of Italy withdrew. No explanation was immediately given.

Waldegaard had 3 hours 20 minutes and 11 seconds in penalty points, a total of 47 minutes 6 seconds ahead of Massimo Biasion of Italy, who had 4 hours 17 minutes and 17 seconds.

Biasion, the world and Safari Rally champion, is seeking his third straight win for himself and the Lancia while Waldegaard is after a fourth. He won the rally in 1977, 1984, and 1986.

Mikael Ericsson of Sweden, also in a Toyota, was third with 4 hours 24 minutes 68 seconds.

The fourth position was held by the remaining Lancia driven by Juha Kankkunen of Finland — 4 hours 35 minutes 23 seconds.

The Subaru Legacy, like the Toyota Celica a four-wheel drive making a debut, took the fifth position. It was driven by Kenyan Jim Heather-Hayes who had 6 hours 34 minutes 40 seconds.

The third of the Toyotas that entered the race had lost 6 hours 56 minutes 42 seconds.

Among the top leading cars mid-Saturday, a Mitsubishi Galant was eighth with 8 hours 21 minutes 31 seconds. It was followed by the lone Audi 90 Quattro with 9 hours 1 minute 58 seconds.

Drivers are required to cover each of the 83 sections in the 4,000 kilometres (2,480-mile) route in predetermined time. A penalty point is awarded for every minute a driver arrives late.

The seconds were accrued in a special speed race Wednesday when the cars were timed to a minute.

The Safari Rally is fourth in the world championship circuit and counts for both the manufacturer's title and the driver's championship.

The Subarus had been expected to offer the stiffest challenge to the Lancia. But they have been plagued with overheating problems, and only one of the five works Subarus survived into the third leg.

The other Subaru to leave Nairobi Saturday was a private entry.

The cars Saturday were racing through farmlands and winning roads in the Rift Valley before reaching the farming town of Eldoret, 311 kilometres (194 miles) northwest of Nairobi and near the neighbouring Uganda border.

The drivers will spend the night in Eldoret.

Smith seeks to make comeback at Boston marathon Monday

BOSTON, Massachusetts (AP)

— Winning the Boston marathon usually puts a lot of pressure on its returning champions. Geoff Smith has won it twice, but he doesn't expect to feel the pressure in its 94th running Monday.

That's because, he says, "I have been away."

Smith, a 36-year-old Briton who lives outside Boston has only been away for a year, but it seems like an eternity. He won the Boston marathon in 1984 and 1985.

Still, he doesn't think his fans have forgotten him.

"I've always gotten good support from the crowd," he said. "I hope the support will be back."

Smith also hopes his strength will be back, the strength that helped carry him to the two victories before prize money was offered.

It deserted him in 1988, when he ran the entire 26 miles, 385 yards (42.3 kilometres) with mononucleosis, and he struggled to finish 18th after placing third in 1987.

"I didn't know I had it," Smith said. "I was feeling tired about three or four weeks before the race, but I put it down to having had a good winter of training."

"I don't know how I go it. I guess I was just run down. I thought I was getting old," he said with a laugh. "It was a relief to find out there was something

wrong with me."

After the illness was diagnosed, Smith was ordered by doctors to get lots of rest and take strength-building vitamins.

"From Boston in April 1988 until February 1989, I couldn't run three to five miles a week," he said. "And I didn't get back to full-strength training until November '89. I didn't want a relapse."

Smith said he recently ran the marathon distance in a workout in about 2 hours 14 minutes, similar to his winning time in 1985, when he overcame leg cramps in the closing stages.

"It's nice to run and not feel tired," he said. "Since November, I've been running about 100 miles (160 kilometres) a week, but with no speed."

"I'm ready for a good marathon," he emphasised.

He will be facing strong competition, including Tanzania's Juma Ikaangaa, the world's top-ranked marathoner, the 1989 New York City marathon winner and the Boston runner-up the past two years.

Others scheduled to run include Kenya's Ibrahim Hussein, 1988 Boston champion and 1987 New York City winner; Australia's Rob De Castella, course record-holder at 2:07:51 and 1986 winner; Wales' Steve Jones, 1987 Boston runner-up and 1988 New York City winner, and Italy's

Gelindo Bordin, 1988 Olympic gold medalist.

Can Smith possibly expect to keep up?

"I feel very strong, but I don't feel very fast," he said. "I had to start from scratch again. First, I concentrated on getting my strength back for Boston. Next year, I will have my speed back — I'm working on it."

Meanwhile, a controversy over the validity of the Boston marathon course for record purposes appears to have overshadowed the outstanding men's and women's field for Monday's race.

Technically, there are no world records for marathons, merely world bests, because courses throughout the world are not standardised.

But if any runner at Boston goes under the men's world best of 2 hours, 6 minutes, 50 seconds, set by Belayneh Densimo of Ethiopia at Rotterdam in 1988, or under the women's world best of 2:21:06, by Ingrid Kristiansen of Norway at London in 1985, it will not be recognised by the governing body of the sport in the United States.

The reason? The Athletics Congress, a U.S. track governing body, has passed legislation that eliminated point-to-point records for road race courses.

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India, Pakistan accuse each other of preparing for war

NEW DELHI (AP) — Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh said Saturday that Pakistan is gearing for war and India was prepared for "any eventuality."

Pakistan, in turn, claimed that "India wants war."

Singh told reporters that Pakistan had moved radar units and armoured regiments close to the Indian border and was readying its airfields for use. He said India's northern neighbour had "sounded a red alert, which is last word" in war preparations.

A Pakistani Foreign Ministry official scoffed at the Indian allegations, calling them a "figment of V.P. Singh's imagination."

"India wants war and V.P. Singh's threats... are a clear indication just how badly," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Tension was high in the state of Jammu-Kashmir. India and Pakistan have fought two wars over Kashmir, and at least 270 people have been killed since the Indian government launched a crackdown on Muslim separatists in the state in January.

"India cannot accept the fact that the Kashmiris want their freedom and are not only trying to oppress this movement but to start another war and blame us," said the Pakistani Foreign Ministry official in Islamabad.

Muslim-dominated Kashmir is a former princely state whose Hindu ruler opted for union with India in 1947 when the subcontinent was divided into Hindu-majority India and Islamic Pakistan. A U.N.-monitored ceasefire line separates the Kashmir Valley into Indian and Pakistani sectors.

India defeated Pakistan in wars over Kashmir in 1948 and 1965. The two countries also fought a war in 1971 that led to the independence of Bangladesh. The Kashmir separatists say they want an independent country, attached neither to Muslim Pakistan or India, whose population is 82 per cent Hindu. India has accused

Pakistan of fanning the flames in Indian Kashmir, a charge Pakistan denies.

On Saturday, outside the state capital of Srinagar, a grenade thrown by militants exploded near an army truck, injuring three soldiers, in the state's capital, police said.

A round-the-clock curfew entered its eighth day in Srinagar as police arrested 100 people in their search for the killers of three kidnapping victims.

Since Saturday, police have detained more than 1,000 people, mostly young men and boys, in their search, security officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The bullet-riddled bodies of three hostages — industrialist L.M. Khara, general manager of the Hindustan Machine Tools Co., Kashmir University Vice Chancellor Mushir Ul-Haq and his secretary — were found earlier this week.

Muslim separatists had demanded the release of three jailed militants in exchange for the men. The government refused.

On Friday, Muslim militants kidnapped a former member of the state legislature, Amirullah Khan, 75, his home in Shopian, 60 kilometres northeast of Srinagar.

In Bhatnagar, 200 kilometres north of the capital, a man who was shot and wounded in an attack Friday by security forces died of his injuries Saturday morning.

Security forces slapped a curfew on the town, but crowds filled the street in neighbouring villages Saturday, shouting anti-Indian slogans, and security forces were rushed to the scene. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

In Srinagar, the capital, army vehicles went door-to-door offering packets of food to residents who have been forced to stay indoors since April 7, a day after the kidnappings occurred.

But residents in several sections of the city refused the food. They, too, shouted anti-government slogans and called for independence for Kashmir.

Opposition accuses Nepal king of stalling reforms

KATHMANDU (R) — Nepal's opposition expressed dissatisfaction with King Birendra's failure to address the issue of reform in a major speech Saturday and accused him of trying to stall the process to preserve his powers.

Officials of newly legalised political parties leading a powerful movement for multi-party democracy said public anger could erupt again unless the king moved more quickly on reform.

Birendra, in a broadcast speech marking Nepal's new year, expressed sadness over the loss of life during the eight-week campaign by the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy.

Doctors say at least 50 people were killed on April 6 when thousands marched on his palace to demand reform. Movement estimates put the death toll at between 150 and 200. The government said six people were killed.

Birendra afterwards swiftly legalised political parties after a 30-year ban, but despite talks with the opposition there have been no further moves.

In his speech, the king promised a commission would be established soon to review the constitution and expressed confidence in the future of the Himalayan nation, one of the world's poorest.

But he said nothing about the democracy movement's demands that the country's system of indirectly elected councils, known as Panchayats, should be abolished in favour of parliamentary democracy and a constitutional monarchy.

"We are disappointed. There is a conspiracy to delay, not to solve the problems," said Girija Prasad Koirala, general secretary of the centrist Nepal Congress Party.

"He wants to give concessions to the Rashtriya (national) Panchayat to safeguard his own powers. He is hiding his time," Koirala told Reuters.

"But time is running out. The people are getting restive and angry and may explode against the king," he added.

Hopes of a quick settlement of the opposition's demands rose Friday after the king met his leader, Ganesh Man Singh, Nepal's most highly regarded opposition politician.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Gunmen kill Karachi ambulance worker

KARACHI (R) — Gunmen killed an ambulance worker and a bomb injured two people in Karachi Saturday, police said. More than 20 people were killed in gun battles last week between followers of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and the opposition Mohajir National Movement (MQM). Troops and paramilitary rangers have been patrolling the streets of Pakistan's biggest city since Monday in an effort to prevent more violence.

'Tomatoes from space are safe'

WASHINGTON (R) — Tomatoes grown from seeds that drifted in space for nearly six years are as safe to eat as any garden-variety fruit or vegetable, U.S. officials said Friday, but one scientist said eating the tomatoes could still be harmful — to science. Moving swiftly to allay fears raised by a published report that toxic tomatoes could have been produced by some of the 12.5 million seeds that orbited the Earth and were later distributed to schools, several officials said they would have no qualms about eating the space tomatoes, said Kenneth Pederson, spokesman for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Quake rattles areas in U.S., Canada

BELLINGHAM, Washington (AP) — A sharp earthquake shook northwest Washington and southeast British Columbia, authorities said. One U.S.-Canada border crossing was closed but there were no reports of serious damage or injuries. The quake measured 5.1 on the Richter Scale and struck at 10:33 p.m. (0433 GMT), said Steve Malone, a geophysicist at the University of Washington. Its epicentre was 4.5 kilometres northeast of Densley, a town about 16 kilometres south of the Canadian border. The epicentre was about 80 kilometres southeast of Vancouver, British Columbia, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

China warns separatists, urges stability along northwest border

PEKING (R) — China has warned against regional separatism and ordered efforts to ensure stability along its remote northwest frontier — days after reports of ethnic unrest among Muslims in the sensitive Xinjiang region.

A senior Communist Party official in a televised speech from the regional capital Urumqi Friday warned separatists not to threaten China's unity and stability.

The official did not refer directly to reported unrest near the ancient silk road city Kashgar last week when about 50 people, mostly Muslims of the ethnic Kirghiz minority, were said to have been killed in clashes with security forces.

Foreigners have been barred from the area and China's official media have made no mention of any unrest.

A regional deputy party leader, not identified in remarks monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), told local organisations to "safeguard stability and unity and ensure the stability of the border area."

"Various negative factors" should be "resolutely eliminated," he said.

"Anyone who undermines (stability and unity) is lifting a rock only to drop it on his own feet," he said.

"We should strengthen the Socialist legal system and bring into further play the dictatorial function of the state," he said.

Accounts vary over the cause of the violence, with some local people in Urumqi, about 1,000 kilometres away, saying it was over the introduction of new identity cards and others maintaining the dispute centred on religious restrictions.

The party official described the economic and political situation in Xinjiang as "relatively good."

A vast region covering an area three times the size of France, Xinjiang is home to about 15 million people, about half of them Muslims who trace their ancestry to Turkic not Chinese origins.

Xinjiang has a long history of bloody conflicts between contending powers. Sporadic rebellions and protests against Chinese rule have erupted since the 1949 Communist revolution.

Focus of the dying stages of the "great game" between contending powers Britain and Russia in the early years of this century, Xinjiang is China's strategic gateway to the West, bordering Mongolia, the Soviet Union, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.

Quarter of E. Germans want Kohl as leader, poll says

BONN (R) — Only 24 per cent of East Germans want West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to become the first leader of a united Germany, a poll out Saturday said.

The findings of the poll by the Dortmund-based Forsa Institute suggested Kohl was not the popular figure in East Germany that cheering crowds at his rallies there led people to believe.

At 46 per cent, almost twice as many opted for Oskar Lafontaine, Kohl's Social Democrat rival in West Germany's December elections.

The survey, released a day before publication by Bild am Sonntag newspaper, gave a straight choice between the two men. Thirty per cent said they did not know whom they preferred.

Kohl has made no secret of his dream to be the first chancellor of a reunified Germany, saying this would crown his political career.

Mandela briefs EC delegation ahead of planned visit to London

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Black South African leader Nelson Mandela briefs a visiting European Community (EC) delegation Saturday before travelling to London for a musical celebration of his release from apartheid's jails.

Mandela freed in February from a life jail term for plotting to topple Pretoria's white minority rule, is likely to call again for intensified anti-apartheid sanctions in his talks with senior EC politicians.

The delegation, led by Irish Foreign Minister Gerard Collins, is in its final day of a three-day visit, during which they have held talks with President F.W. de Klerk and groups from across the country's political spectrum.

The EC delegation paid a brief visit to Durban Saturday for talks with Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthezi, whose supporters are waging a bitter war for political supremacy against allies of Mandela's African National Congress (ANC).

Collins said Friday the EC would maintain sanctions until the programme of apartheid reform launched by De Klerk was seen to be irreversible.

The ANC, however, wants sanctions to be intensified until the final obstacles to dismantling apartheid are removed, principally the release of all political prisoners and an end to the state of emergency that has been in force for three and a half years.

Preliminary talks on the path to non-racial democracy in South Africa are scheduled for May 2 to 4 between De Klerk and Mandela and may provide a breakthrough in the political deadlock between the two sides.

Mandela and his wife Winnie head for London to attend a massive four-hour rock concert being held in his honour Monday.

The ANC deputy president has no other engagements scheduled and would return directly to South Africa, organisers said.

About 70,000 tickets have been sold for the concert at Wembley Stadium, which will be broadcast live to an estimated one billion people around the world.

South Africa has been excluded from the satellite linkup and South African artists will not be in the star-studded line-up because of the United Nations cultural boycott of the republic.

Hundreds watch 'necklace' killing

In a separate development, hundreds of people watched a man burn to death after being "necklaced" in a busy street in central Johannesburg, police said Saturday.

Witnesses said a petrol-soaked tyre was hung around the neck of the unidentified black man and then set alight Friday evening.

Passers-by thronging the busy Hillbrow district of the city centre could do nothing to help the victim.

Police said there was no immediate motive for the killing.

"The 'necklace' method of murdering political opponents and suspected police informers was common in black townships during a nationwide uprising against apartheid rule in the mid-1980s."

The gruesome practice virtually ended in recent years after being condemned outright by anti-apartheid leaders.

On Friday police fired tear gas to disperse some 1,000 Muslims protesting growing drug use in their neighbourhood, witnesses said.

The marchers included mixed-race men, women and children who gathered at a mosque in Salt River, outside Cape Town, with placards that read, "We don't want drugs." The protesters said drug use and drug dealing had become a pervasive problem in the area.

Police told organisers they lacked the manpower to protect the demonstrators and would have to break up the march.

The demonstrators decided to proceed, but after travelling one block of police fired at least 12 rounds of tear gas, witnesses said.

The crowd quickly dispersed. Later, the marchers regrouped at the mosque and accused several local youths in the streets of selling drugs. There were several heated exchanges, but no injuries or arrests were reported.

Mandela said Friday the white-led government was not doing enough to control the police.

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Poles torn between satisfaction, dreadful memories after Katyn massacre admission

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Poles were torn between satisfaction and dreadful memories Friday after the Soviet Union admitted and apologised for the massacre of 15,000 Polish officers a 50 years ago in the Katyn Forest.

They also pledged to seek more facts about the killings as well as damage payments for families of the victims.

"The long-awaited moment... has come," Polish government spokeswoman Malgorzata Niezabitowska said after Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev handed over to President Wojciech Jaruzelski documents establishing Soviet secret police responsibility for the crime simply known as "Katyn."

"The event which took place 50 years ago in the Smolensk Forest has burdened relations between our two countries in the most painful way," she said. "Reconciliation can be built only on truth."

Lech Walesa, head of the Solidarity movement that leads Poland's government, said: "It's good that criminals admit their crimes." He called the Soviet admission "an act of moral justice which has been awaited for a long time."

"I feel a great joy now that after so many years the truth has been revealed," said Bozena Lolek, whose late husband's father died at Katyn and who helps lead an organisation for victims' relatives called the Katyn Family.

"For us, it is a great success," she said, leading to "many political and economic consequences."

Mrs. Niezabitowska said the Polish government recognises the significance of the official Soviet statement, but wants more questions cleared up.

"We await an explanation of all the 'blank spots' in our common history, which the Katyn crime symbolises for us," she said.

The bodies of more than 4,200 officers, interned by the Soviets at Kozielec, were uncovered in the Katyn Forest near Smolensk. But the remains of another 10,000 officers who were captive at camps in Starobelsk and Ostashkov have never been found, and word on their exact

fate remains a key demand of their families.

"The point is the Russians don't want to reveal the other massacre sites," said Polish historian Wojciech Ziembinski.

Walesa said there must be "punishment of those guilty of the genocide," reparations for the officers' survivors and access for Poles to their final resting places.

Relatives also have called for criminal proceedings against anyone responsible who is still alive, and payment of damages.

Jaruzelski said the archival documents received from Gorbachev "will be an extremely important aid for historians, not to mention the value they will have for the families of the murdered officers."

The Soviet announcement came on the anniversary of the Nazi German announcement of the finding of the graves in 1943. And a new documentary on Katyn coincidentally was programmed for Polish television Friday night.

In the decades following the massacre, Communist authorities forbade discussion of Soviet responsibility for the crimes.

"We all knew," said Bronislaw Geremek, the historian who heads Solidarity's parliamentary caucus. "What today's communist brings, it brings late and perhaps too little."

But he said the uttering of the long-awaited words "about the 'regret' of Soviet authorities for this murder, still terrible in Polish memory... opens the possibility for a return to truth in relations between Poland and the Soviet Union."

The officers had been interned shortly after the Red Army invaded Poland at the outbreak of World War II. At the time, the Soviet Union and Germany were joined in a non-aggression pact.

The Katyn bodies, shot in the back of the head and stacked in mass graves, were found by the Nazis in April 1943 and immediately used for propaganda purposes against the allies.

The Soviets maintained that the officers were killed in 1941 by the Nazis after they invaded the

One Katyn story

For nine years, through deportation and war's devastation, Helena Krahelska kept shoes and shirts waiting.

But in 1948, on the death of her youngest daughter, she acknowledged that her beloved husband, Piotr, had been among the Polish army officers massacred by the Soviet secret police in Katyn Forest.

It would take the Soviet government 42 years to do the same.

Mrs. Krahelska did not live to hear Moscow Friday put aside the sham that the crime was committed by the Nazis and acknowledge responsibility for what it called "one of the gravest crimes of Stalinism."

But her surviving daughter, Wanda Zadrozna, received the news with eyes glazed by tears.

"There is a great regret that it took 50 years and the wives of those people didn't live until this day," Mrs. Zadrozna said.

"But whatever happens now, it is good that the truth will be

finally written in history."

Mrs. Zadrozna was 12 when she last saw her father, a landowner, lawyer and town mayor in eastern Poland.

"We got three letters, the last one was from March 5, 1940," Mrs. Zadrozna recalled, fingering the plastic wrapping around the worn pages that record her father's last worries about his family's fate.

"Then no one got any letters any more," she said.

In 1943, the Nazis invading the Soviet Union unearthed the mass graves.

"This news was so horrible, no one wanted to believe it. We treated it as propaganda," Mrs. Zadrozna said.

"Everybody was still waiting. My mother had everything for him, and it wasn't easy because we had nothing. Sometimes she would refresh the clothes because she hoped... maybe he would come back."

At war's end, Mrs. Krahelska and her daughters were deported west from the Soviet-annexed eastern Poland to the boundaries of the new Polish Communist state.

Mrs. Krahelska gave up hope for her husband, but she was never able to bury him or even mourn him openly. The Polish government echoed the Soviet line and made clear people must not speak openly about alternative explanations.

Mrs. Zadrozna remembers her mother's "naive" effort to get a widow's pension in 1949: "When it turned out my father was at Katyn, she was told to get out of the office as soon as possible 'or else you will find yourself where you don't want to be.'"

Those killed were doctors, scientists, professors, the elite called up from the army reserve. As Stalin planned, their places leading Poland were taken by Soviet-backed functionaries as the Communists consolidated power after the war.

"These were the best of their homeland," Mrs. Zadrozna said. "It is not only I who have been missing them personally, but the whole country has been missing them."

Fujimori candidacy unleashes anti-Asian feeling in Peru

LIMA (R) — A racist backlash against ethnic Asians has been unleashed in Peru after Alberto Fujimori, the son of Japanese immigrants, became the surprise favourite to win the presidency.

President Alan Garcia, Peru's Catholic primate and prominent academics have all condemned the rash of hostility towards the local Japanese community by supporters of centre-right candidate Mario Vargas Llosa, Fujimori's rival for the presidency, who has also distanced himself from what he called racism's "scourge."

People of Asian descent say they have been insulted in the street, denied entry to elegant restaurants and bars and received

a sudden cold shoulder from neighbours and co-workers.

The hunes of Japanese-Peruvian families have been stoned, the Lima daily newspaper Exposito reported.

"Even old acquaintances act very strange with me now, sort of cold and patronising," said Amelia Morimoto, an anthropologist and daughter of Japanese immigrants.

Lima's Peruvian-Japanese Cultural Centre has reported receiving threatening phone calls. Private television channels are re-running films which cast the Japanese in an unflattering light, like Bridge Over the River Kwai and Tora Tora Tora.

tailor, arrived in Peru in 1930, stunned the nation when he surged from nowhere to come within four percentage points of beating Vargas Llosa in the first round of voting last Sunday out of a field of nine candidates.

Dubbed the "tsuami" — Japanese for tidal wave — by local media, Fujimori has become the favourite to win the deciding run-off on May 27 or June 3 as he wins support from leftist parties and leaders of the ruling Peruvian Aprista Party.

Vargas Llosa, a world-renowned novelist and, like Fujimori, a political novice, has chided his own supporters for showing hostility towards Asians. But apparently with little effect.

COLUMN

Chirac's daughter falls from balcony

PARIS (R) — The elder daughter of Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac was seriously injured when she fell from the balcony of her Paris apartment Friday, police said. Laurence Chirac, unmarried and in her 30s, was taken to hospital with serious head and rib injuries. Chirac, a former prime minister and now leader of the right-wing opposition party RPR, had been informed and returning from a holiday abroad, a family friend said. The hospital refused to comment on her condition.

Judge refuses to register young Rambo

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — A 5-month-old boy in the northeastern city of Salvador is named because a judge refused to register him as "Rambo," the newspaper O Globo has reported. Miraldo de Moura Engenio decided to show his devotion to the macho, machine-gun-toting movie character by naming his first son after him, according to the newspaper. But Judge Luiz Fernando Brito refused to register the name, citing a Brazilian law that forbids parents to give children exotic names that might cause them embarrassment in the future, O Globo said. Because baby Rambo still has no legal name, his mother suggested a compromise by naming the child after Sylvester Stallone, the actor who became famous for his Rambo roles, O Globo said.

'Dear Gorbachev' letter solves sock shortage

MOSCOW (AP) — Don't tell 19-year-old Andrei Umrikhin that Mikhail S. Gorbachev and the huge Communist Party apparatus don't care about him. But don't try to make him believe that the system really works, either. After trying for a year and a half to buy some new socks in his small village in southern Russia, Umrikhin sent a letter directly to Gorbachev. And a little more than a month later the creaky Soviet retail system coughed up new socks not only for his family, but the whole village. "In tell the truth, I still wonder whether it was all a coincidence, or whether the socks really were from the Central Committee," said Umrikhin, reached by telephone in his southern Russian village of Belnye near Kursk, 450 kilometres south of Moscow. "At first, I prayed for Gorbachev, but I don't believe in him any more because after five years of perestroika, I had to write him a letter to get a pair of socks," he added. "But personally I am very grateful to him and to the whole party apparatus for helping me out in such a predicament." Umrikhin said he had wanted to brush up his appearance before appearing before young nurses at the spring military draft in old socks. He wrote to Gorbachev at the end of February. "Dear Mikhail Sergeyevich, please send me and my family some socks," he recalled saying in his letter. "But because we are rather hard-pressed financially, send us cheap socks, please, if you can. And I beg you not to think that this is some kind of prank or other. I am positively serious about it. Some five weeks after sending his letter, he received postcards saying it was referred back to local party officials. Then the district party secretary called Umrikhin and told him to go to the local distribution centre. There, he was referred back to his local store. Without having to say a word, the shop assistant sold him a pair of new socks for 1.70 rubles. "And the next day after standing in line with other villagers this time I officially bought the same kind of socks for the rest of my family," he said.

Madonna concert wows fans

TOKYO (AP) — More than 34,000 Japanese fans turned out as U.S. pop music star Madonna opened her second Japan tour Friday night. But residents near the open-air stadium where the show was held complained about the noise. Steady rain didn't keep fans away from China Marine Stadium, 33 kilometres outside of Tokyo, for the 2-hour performance. The show won generally favourable reviews from newspaper critics. However, local police said they got some 30 complaints from people living near the new stadium, which opened on March 24. Some of those complaining asked if the sound could be turned down, police said.